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OF

Charities and Correction

Edited by FREDERICK HOWARD WINES

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WORDS OF APPROVAL.

The RECORD has every reason to be gratified with the reception given to it by the public. We have received many encouraging letters, praising its appearance and contents and promising assistance in the effort to put it upon a solid financial basis. We quote a few of the many expressions of appreciation which have come to us through the mails:

Opportune.

Just what I need.

Starts off admirably.

Supplies a great want.

Makes a good showing.

Will be a valuable help.

I like its looks very much.

A commendable undertaking.

Cannot fail of being a success.

Long life and a large list to it.

Impresses me with its strength.

It will secure subscribers at sight.

Another step in the right direction.

Should be encouraged and sustained.

Have sent for some specimen copies.

Am much gratified at its handsome make-up.

I like it thoroughly, in its scope, contents, and typography.

Some of the items in the first number are worth to me the price of a year's subscription.

We hope to retain the good-will of our subscribers, if hard work and a sincere desire to be of service to them will enable us to accomplish the task which we have undertaken. But we must again ask for help from them in obtaining additional support from those interested in any branch of charitable or correctional work. If every one of our friends will send us one new name, we shall double our list. One of them forwarded the other day a list of thirty-seven accompanied by the money. If you cannot send actual subscribers, send names of those to whom you think we should mail specimen copies.

CHARITIES OF BOSTON.

We have experienced great satisfaction in looking over the new edition of the Directory of Charitable and Correctional Organizations published by the Associated Charities of Boston. For clearness, conciseness, and completeness it seems to be a model of excellence; and no one can read it without acquiring much important information, not only as to the work of the institutions and societies in and around Boston, but as to the principles and methods of the State and municipal governments, in the way of relief and repression. It deserves a more extended notice than we can give it at present. Appended to it is a valuable compendium of legal knowledge and suggestion in regard to the rights, duties and liabilities of those with whom visitors to the poor come into contact, by Mr. George S. Hale.

CHICAGO WOMEN'S CLUB.

The Chicago Women's Club has issued a circular, after consultation with other organizations of women in that city, announcing the formation of a "Protective Agency for Women and Children," on whose governing board the Woman's Temperance Union, Woman's Press Association, Suffrage Association, State Industrial School for Girls, and Moral Educational Society, are represented. The Woman's Christian Association, Woman's Exchange, and other similar societies, will, it is presumed, unite in the movement, which has for its object:

(1) The protection of woman's purity and honor, and punishment of any trespass upon the same.
(2) Protection against any injustice to women of a financial or business character, such as defrauding them of their pay for services rendered, or the violation of business contracts made with them.
(3) The securing of the enactment of better laws for the protection of the honor and property-rights of women.
(4) Protection and defence of the rights of children against wrongs of any nature.

That the aims of the agency may not be misunderstood, it is distinctly stated that its work is in no sense that of reforming or reclaiming, but that on the moral side it stands solely for the protection and defence of all such as hold honor and purity dear to themselves; and for the care of those who are too young to choose intelligently between virtue and vice.

An office has been established at Central Music Hall, where complaints will be heard daily, from 8 to 11 o'clock A.M. Six legal firms have been engaged as counsel, who will prosecute offenders in case of need. A permanent fund of ten thousand dollars is to be raised at once, for carrying on the work of the agency. The treasurer is Mrs. F. S. Howe.

The character of the complaints which will be considered will be as follows:

(1) Any questionable proposals or acts which are intended to compromise a woman's honor.
(2) Intrigues or plotting intended to entrap good girls into improper relations.
(3) False advertisements, offering situations to young girls, where the end in view is not honorable employment.
(4) Any withholding of wages, or defrauding of just dues. All such demands, if just, we will endeavor to assist in collecting.
(5) Wrongs and abuses of children; unchaste proposals to little girls, or attempts to entice them into wrong-doing.

This union of women of position and influence for the protection of women who are friendless and exposed is certainly worthy of commendation and sympathy on the part of all who desire to see the weak protected against outrage. The agency has the cordial support of the Chicago press.

We are enabled to announce that ex-President Hayes will make the response, on behalf of the National Conference of Charities, to the addresses of welcome at St. Paul in July.

To be is better than to do.

Applause is dear to pride, but love cares little for it.

Reputation is but a sign to point out where virtue resides.—FRANCIS DE SALES.

CORRESPONDENCE.

I have had the first number of the RECORD by me for several days, waiting a time that I could examine it with satisfactory care. I have been too crowded to do so until the other day, when in the railroad cars for an hour I enjoyed the reading without interruption. I think you have got the paper in the needed shape to be of great service; and there can be no doubt, if your energy will secure its support, that the interests concerned will be greatly advanced. Such a mouth-piece will be the means of giving clear expression throughout the country in the different directions of advice advocated by the national annual conferences, and will tend to secure the adoption of the best principles and methods on a uniform standard.

CHARLES E. CADWALADER, M.D.

Philadelphia, March 27th.

I am sure all charity organizers will thank you, as I do, for your editorial on Charity Organization Societies and the lucid and able way in which you state the difference between them and the relief societies proper.

May I point out one other difference, as an addition to your statement, which is of great importance, while it is very frequently misunderstood, especially by our friends of the relief societies.

It is in the meaning attached to the term "visitor."

We believe as earnestly and fully as any one, in the necessity of having experienced, trained and, therefore, *paia* investigators. But as we also believe in the necessity of the *volunteer* visitors' work, we call the former by another name, usually "agents" or "superintendents."

In this city, for instance, where the excellent Relief and Aid Society is doing such thorough work in administering temporary relief, the work of our visitors *begins* where theirs *ends*, viz.: after investigation and provisional relief, one of our cardinal principles being that *the volunteer visitor must not be an almoner.*

W. ALEX. JOHNSON.

Chicago, March 20th.

An important "Conference of Charities" was held in Boston, on the evening of March 25th, at which the subject "What shall be done with the Discharged Inmates of Prisons and Reformatories?" was considered. I send you the following brief report of the meeting from the *Boston Transcript:*

The conference was called to order about eight o'clock by Governor Robinson. The first speaker of the evening was Colonel Usher, warden of the State Prison, who made a very practical and interesting speech, saying that he believed that most criminals wanted to live better lives, and to help them best would be to teach them better things. If that could be done, he thought there would be no prisoners. The problem how to teach them is a difficult one. The officers of state prisons do all they can to help the men, but it is after they go out into the world they fall again, partly because they are known to have been in prison. Many prisoners are sensitive, for many of them have come from good families. The key-note of success in prison management is freedom from cruelties aud injustice. The opportunity presented in prison life for meditation is very great, and prisoners must be helped in a frank and straightforward manner, without cant or sentimentality. Men have come to the speaker and said, when their term was about up, "What have I got to do after I get out?" The stigma upon men who have been in State's prison is one which should be removed, and it will help those men to lead a good life. He would recommend to prisoners, if they have good homes, to return to them after sentence is concluded.

A difference of opinion between Governor Robinson and the warden concerning the contract and "over-work" system was the subject of a brief debate, the latter contending for the "over-work" feature, while the governor expressed his lack of confidence in it for larger penal institutions.

Colonel Tufts, of the reformatory prison at Concord, said the question How to make prisoners better while undergoing sentence? should be followed by the question, How shall they be prevented from growing worse while in prison? Men who enter prison under sentence have the feeling of exclusion from all good society. They meet within those walls those who entertain similar feelings and have given up hopes of a better life. With such they find a welcome. When they leave the prison they meet with no welcome and are forced to return to companions in crime for fellowship and sympathy. The speaker closed with some statistical facts concerning the institution of which he was in charge, and the comparison of different systems pursued in various reformatories.

Messrs. Barnes, Chaplain, and Elridge, and Commissioner Spalding also presented their views briefly. They fully agreed with Colonel Usher that the character of the crime committed was not an infallible indication of character. Some of the other speakers held that too many people went to prison from lack of proper defence and consideration on the part of the officers of justice.

As will be noticed in the above report, Governor Robinson and Colonel Usher differed in their opinion of "over-work." The former contended that the effect of this system was injurious to the discipline of the prison, for it established a business relation between the contractor and the prisoner over which the warden had no control, as he should have in every instance. It was also likely to do injustice to many of the individual prisoners, for only the able-bodied and "smart" ones would be able to take advantage of it. While they might earn considerable, their weaker, but equally deserving fellow-prisoners, would get nothing.

Colonel Usher dissented entirely from the governor's views, and mentioned instances, in which great good had been done by the money earned by prisoners.

The governor stated that the Prison Commissioners were of the same opinion as himself in regard to "over-work," but the system was still on trial.

The speakers all advanced the idea that the inmates of reformatories and prisons were more upright than honorable than they generally were supposed to be, and nearly all of them left prison with the intention of leading an honest life. "Why should we assume," one speaker said. "that if a man has sinned only once he will surely sin again? Why not assume on the contrary, that if a man has always been good, with but one exception, he will continue to be good?"

The great difficulty of discharged prisoners getting employment was dwelt on. They frequently fail and fall because no one will have any thing to do with an ex-convict. Even the wife and children of the convict are disgraced in the eyes of the world. Employment is the chief means of salvation for the discharged prisoner.

The remarks of Col. Tufts, superintendent of the reformatory, were of great interest, especially those concerning the work now being practically done. Among other means of improvement, the prisoners under his charge have as many as thirteen different societies, most of them exclusively managed by themselves, no officer being present at a meeting.

WALTER CHANNING, M.D.

Brookline, Mass., March 27th.

Nearly all the dependent insane of New Hampshire are still supported at the county establishments. There are at this time in the State asylum only seventy persons maintained at public expense. Of these twelve are criminals supported by the State, twenty-six by towns, and thirty-two by counties. The smallness of this fraction shows that the county asylums are soon to be the chief reliance for the care of the dependent classes. As near as I can form an opinion, without personal examination, I think that some improvement has been made in the provision for their personal care. But this does not remove the great existing evil, the absence of State supervision. If we see any mitigations here and there, they are due to the accidental character of those in charge at any particular place and time. The great need in this State is a law making the insane in the county houses the wards of the State so far as to provide State supervision of them. An effort was made in this direction at the session of 1885, but it failed. I hope that a measure of this sort may succeed in 1887. With a State commissioner legally authorized to examine these houses and required to report his findings to the governor, I think that a great improvement would be realized in the condition of the pauper insane. Any advance will have to be made in that direction, for I

see no reason to expect that the State will make separate provision for them.

From what I have said you will see that the State asylum is more and more given up to the self-supporting classes. I think I can say without indelicacy that it is progressing in all that makes it a desirable home for the insane. We have finished and occupied a detached house for the convalescent and more self-reliant class of women, which combines the benefit of hospital agencies with the latitude and freedom of the family residence. All our efforts have been directed to this end. We have recognized, in all the adjustments, the fact that insanity does not necessarily call for a specific routine; that the insane are still but men and women, with personal tastes, habits and tendencies, which may be largely gratified while under treatment for a malady which does not often make a clean sweep of the faculties. For those adapted to these surroundings life is made very attractive and pleasant. It has gratified me much to find that a class of recent cases has been very happily provided for in this house, in which I am quite sure the pleasing impressions first made upon the patient have greatly hastened the stage of convalescence.

We shall try to do something for the dependent insane at the next session of the legislature.

J. P. Bancroft, M.D.

Concord, N. H., March 31st.

Permit me to call your attention to the fact that we are about to enlarge our facilities by the immediate erection of a building, capable of accommodating thirty patients, to be devoted entirely to the care and treatment of epileptic children.

L. W. Baker, M.D., Sup't.

The Hospital Cottages for Children, Baldwinsville, Mass., March 25th.

One of the most important institutions in this city was omitted from your published list of children's institutions.—The Newsboys Home (Corporate name, Children's Aid Society), 61 Poplar Street.

I cannot give you the number of inmates, but they average, I think, near two hundred. Truly yours,

Albert A. Day, Sec'y.

Brooklyn, N. Y.

A copy of the International Record of Charities and Corrections has lately come to my hands, and I take pleasure in saying that I have read it with interest and satisfaction. Such a journal is, I believe, highly desirable; and the energy and forethought shown in placing it before those interested in the matters of which it treats can not be too highly commended. The reforms in this field have been by far too few and too slow, though the extreme need for them has been and is now most urgent. This state of affairs has, I think, so long existed, because of a want of enlightened public sentiment among the masses; and any and all means which tend to correct the evil should receive the most cordial support.

I shall suggest to the governor that the executive chamber subscribe for this journal.

Goodwin Brown.

Executive Chamber, Albany, N. Y., April 7th.

Charity, in its higher sphere, where it ceases to be a mere impulse, and becomes a principle of equity as well, is an attempt to restore and maintain the lost balance between the rich and the poor. Its action may be accidental and individual, or systematic and public; it is a moral libration, showing the unrest of the world; and any kind of help that does not tend to maintain an equilibrium is so far forth inadequate and injurious.—J. B. Bittinger.

CONDITIONAL LIBERATION.

DECISION OF THE OHIO SUPREME COURT.

In an action of *quo warranto*, brought by the attorney-general of the State of Ohio against the managers of the Ohio Penitentiary, for the purpose of testing the constitutionality of an act, passed in 1885, relating to the imprisonment of convicts, the supreme court rendered a decision in which the act was fully sustained. The principal points contained in the opinion delivered, which may become memorable in the annals of criminal jurisprudence, are covered in the following summary.

The eighth section of the act in question is as follows:

Section 8. That said board of managers shall have power to establish rules and regulations under which any prisoner who is now, or hereafter may be, imprisoned under a sentence other than for murder in the first or second degree, who may have served the minimum term provided by law for the crime for which he was convicted, and who has not previously been convicted of a felony, and served a term in a penal institution, may be allowed to go upon parole outside of the buildings and inclosures, but to remain, while on parole, in the legal custody and under the control of the board, and subject at any time to be taken back within the inclosures of said institution; and full power to enforce such rules and regulations, and to retake and reimprison any convict so upon parole, is hereby conferred upon said board, whose written order, certified by its secretary, shall be a sufficient warrant for all officers named therein, to authorize such officer to return to actual custody any conditionally released or paroled prisoner, and it is hereby made the duty of all officers to execute said order the same as ordinary criminal process.

The constitutionality of this act was attacked on two distinct grounds: (1) As an infringement of the exclusive right of the executive to grant reprieves, commutations, and pardons, and (2) as an infringement of the judicial power vested exlusively in the courts. The court held that a parole is not a pardon; and that the legislature, which has the right to fix the penalty in the first instance, has the right to mitigate it.

The section quoted does not purport to discharge the prisoner, or shorten his term of service; it simply authorizes the board to allow the prisoner to go outside the buildings and inclosures of the penitentiary, but he is to remain in their legal custody and under their control; this does not release the offender from the punishment prescribed for his offence, and it is therefore not a pardon. Neither is it a commutation, for commutation is the change of a punishment to which a person has been condemned into a less severe one.

Stress has been laid upon the word "there," as meaning within the walls of the penitentiary, and as part of the judicial sentence. If this were true, there could be no transfers of prisoners, under any circumstances. "The penitentiary" does not mean the place, geographically limited, which, at the moment of the sentence, may be legally designated, or in use, for the confinement of criminals; the words refer to the place or places which, for the time being, the legislature may provide for the incarceration of criminals.

The diminution of sentence by reason of good conduct is not an interference with the judicial power; this question has been decided by the supreme courts of Pennsylvania and Massachusetts, in respect to the "good-time" laws now embraced in the legislation of a majority of the States.

That the law is retroactive in its effect is no objection to it, since it is not *ex post facto*; the only party who could object to it is the prisoner, and he can not, where it is clearly for his benefit.

The act is evidently prompted by a desire to reform, as well as to punish; to make better those under sentence (whether fixed or indeterminate) as well as to protect society. Whether it is wisely adapted to that end, or whether it is practicable, it is not the province of the court to determine; the court holds it to be valid.

This opinion will strengthen the hands of all who are laboring to secure the establishment, in prisons, of a truly reformatory discipline. There can be no reformation where there is not a motive operating upon the prisoner himself to secure his cooperation in the effort to bring about the desired change in his sentiments and purposes. The strongest motive is hope. The strongest desire in the prisoner's heart is the desire for liberty. Give him the hope of a speedy release, and make its fulfilment depend upon his docility under a reformatory discipline, and you may look for practical results from its introduction. We therefore applaud and uphold the position taken by the Ohio court.

A conference on the management of idiots is to be held in Gratz, August 6–8, 1886. A conference on the statistics of idiocy has recently been held in Pesth.

SENTIMENTAL CHARITY.

Mixed motives characterize all human action, and charitable activity is no exception to this rule. Much that is done for the suffering and unfortunate is prompted quite as much by consideration for the feelings or interests of those who administer relief as of those who receive it. The true sphere of sentiment in human activity is hard to define. Ruskin has said: "It is not less sensation we want, but more. The ennobling difference between one man and another—between one animal and another—is precisely in this, that one feels more than another. If we were sponges, perhaps sensation might not be easily got for us; if we were earth-worms, liable at every instant to be cut in two by the spade, perhaps too much sensation might not be good for us. But, being human creatures, it *is* good for us; nay, we are only human in so far as we are sensitive, and our honor is precisely in proportion to our passion." Yet all are agreed that sentimentality is not sentiment; that sentiment, to be of any value, must be true and not morbid; and that it must be guided and restrained by sense, which is its twin sister. Sympathy is precious, but misplaced sympathy can only work harm. It is misplaced, when it is out of proportion, or when it manifests itself in the substitution of our own activity for that of the man whom we desire to help. To relieve others of their individual responsibility is an undertaking as foolish as it is futile. Feeling should never be blind. In inexperienced persons its intensity is often such as to obscure the reason, and the impulsive should always seek counsel from the wise, before rushing into any scheme of benevolence at the dictation of sensibility. The suffering of the world may be alleviated in individuals; it can never be terminated, since it is an essential element of life, and to put an end to it would be, in many cases, to deprive the object of our sympathies of the benefit of a needed discipline and corrective of his errors.

We have been led into this train of thought by the story of the wretched termination of the career of Mrs. Emma Molloy, a female revivalist and temperance lecturer, who has been held to answer as accessory after the fact to the murder of Mrs. George Graham, in Missouri, by her husband. Graham was a convict in the Northern State Prison at Michigan City, Indiana. There she met him, and, in her own language, "took an interest in him to reform him." He was pardoned out and came to her at Laporte. In her letter to her attorney, which has been given to the press, she says:

> I secured him a place on a newspaper. His conduct for a long time was above reproach. He enlisted my sympathy by talking of his wife and child at Fort Wayne, and I resolved to try to reunite the family. I went to Fort Wayne and pursuaded his wife to rejoin him with her child. I knew it was a doubtful experiment. She was not the one to strengthen and control one of George's weak moral nature. For a time all went well, but old troubles began, and they lived unhappily. The more wretched he became, the more closely he clung to me, his only friend and foster-mother.

We do not care to trace the story farther in its details. It is easily supplied by the imagination. Mrs. Molloy had an adopted daughter Cora. Graham wanted to marry her. Cora "knew his past history, but loved him in spite of it." Graham said that he had been divorced while in prison, and Mrs. Molloy pretends to have believed him. "I would have staked my life that, after his bitter experience in the prison, he would never do any thing to make himself liable to be sent there again." Why so? And this, although, according to his own statement and to her personal knowledge, he had, if his story was true, been again living with his former wife without a renewal of the marriage between them. And, if Graham's declarations now are true (which are partly corroborated by the testimony of his children), Mrs. Molloy herself knew, by her own personal experience with him, the full extent of his want of principle and of fidelity to every vow which he had ever uttered. Murder is the natural termination of such a history. It might have been almost predicted in advance. It was not this woman's weakness of intellect which dragged her down, but her foolish heart—ambitious for a career, discontented with her actual position and duties in life, restless, unsatisfied, desirous of admiration for her benevolence and piety, anxious to display the full extent of the self-sacrificing nobility of character which she fancied that she possessed. She over-estimated her talents and her strength; she under-estimated the peril of the rôle which she had chosen. The moral is plain.

It can not be too deeply impressed upon all who have to do with the insane or with criminals, that there is danger in contact with them—danger of the most varied description—and that it is not every one who is fitted to cope with these hidden perils. It is the duty of some men to face danger. They face it, if necessary, on the battle-field or at the stake. But the late Robert Breckinridge, of Kentucky, once said of a young divinity student under his charge that "the Lord called *some one else*, and he answered." The man who is "sent" can go anywhere; he bears a charmed life; in the path of duty nothing can harm us. But those who run before they are sent must expect to pay the penalty.

LEGISLATION ON INSANITY.

In a former article on this subject, we spoke of the definition of insanity and the classification of the insane, concluding with a reference to the function of the physician as a witness in lunacy cases, which ends when he has given his evidence.

The relation of a lunatic is a double relation. He unites in his person two distinct characters—that of a patient who needs medical care, and that of a man unfitted, by reason of his disease, which differs in its nature from all other diseases, for social life. What shall be done with him in the first of these two characters, is a medical question which a physician alone is competent to answer; what shall be done with him in the second, is in no sense a medical question. It is a question which involves his personal freedom, his ability to make contracts, and his right to the control of his own property, and it is, therefore, a question exclusively for the courts.

This distinction appears to us to be so palpable and so absolutely indisputable, that we are unable to comprehend how it can be ignored or overlooked in any law that may be framed respecting the custody and care of the insane. Yet an examination of the statutes of the several States, forces upon us the conclusion that in many of them it has not been recognized, and that in others it has been but dimly apprehended. Much of the confusion that characterizes our lunacy laws as a whole may be traced to this source, and there can be no radical reform in them which does not rest upon this principle as a postulate.

In several States—Maine, Maryland, Virginia, South Carolina, Mississippi, and Louisiana—provision is made for the commitment of some classes of the insane at least to a hospital or asylum without either judicial investigation or medical certificate. In certain other States—Vermont, New Hampshire, Connecticut, Rhode Island, New York, New Jersey, the District of Columbia, Tennessee, Georgia, Alabama, Texas, Missouri, and Kansas—insane persons may be admitted to an institution for the insane on the simple certificates of a physician, without any judicial inquiry. We say, "without judicial inquiry," because we do not regard the mere certificate of a judicial officer to the good standing of the maker of the medical certificate and to the genuineness of his signature, or the mere filing of such certificate with the judge or clerk of a court, as in any sense such a formal inquest as is contemplated by the Constitution of the United States, when it declares that "no person shall be deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law." In those States which do provide for a more or less complete judicial investigation of the case of every person alleged to be insane, the special relation of the physician to the case, as distinguished from that of the judge, is not always so

clearly expressed and defined as it should be. This will appear as we proceed with the argument.

The result of this confusion of thought is that the physician claims and may exercise powers which are, properly speaking, judicial, and which ought not to be conferred upon him; while the judge is relieved from responsibilities which it should be the aim of the law to fasten upon him and compel him to meet with a full sense of their gravity and solemn weight.

The physician has in mind simply the medical welfare of the patient. If he advises his commitment to a hospital or asylum, it is because he is impressed with the beneficial effect upon the insane man of a more or less protracted sojourn in an institution furnished with the facilities for treating him as his case demands. But, as we have seen, the law recognizes two separate grounds upon which his committal may be sought: the good of the patient, and the good of the community as distinguished from the patient. The court is bound to consider the good of both. The physician does not perhaps think of the confinement incident to asylum life as an abridgment of liberty, any more than he looks upon the splint in which a broken arm is bound as a hardship to the wearer. But the court, viewing the order of committal from the point of view of a lawyer, and perceiving only too clearly the analogy between such an order and that of commitment to a prison, feels the obligation to balance against the supposed benefit which the patient may be expected to receive, the actual privation which such an order signifies. It has to protect every man in all his rights; and the right of the insane man to treatment in an institution may interfere with other rights which the court may regard as paramount, but which do not enter at all into the conception of the situation in the mind of the physician. The habit of mind of a judge, trained by long experience at the bar, is to look below the surface for the motives which prompt actions; and he may discern, in the desire to secure the incarceration of some particular patient or alleged lunatic, a deeper and controlling desire to enter into possession of property now under his control, or some other selfish purpose, not so apparent to the physician. The man may be in fact insane from a medical standpoint, and yet his permanent or protracted detention in an institution for the insane may be none the less a grievous wrong.

The fact of insanity (which can be established, in exceptional cases, without medical testimony, but which ought to rest on competent medical testimony whenever such evidence is available) is not the only fact to be established at an inquest for insanity. It is one of a group of facts, including the patient's pecuniary ability, his legal residence, the character of the manifestations of the disease, etc., some of which are assuredly not medical facts, and for whose determination the judgment of a court is or ought to be an indispensable prerequisite. It is manifestly improper that the patient's friends or his physician should be permitted to pass upon the question whether, in any specified instance, the judgment of a court as to the case is or is not essential. Every lunacy case should begin in an order of a court, and no step should be taken from beginning to end, so long as the insanity of the patient continues, except by order of a court; and when the insanity terminates by recovery or death, such termination ought (in our opinion, for which we shall hereafter give what appear to us to be good and substantial reasons) to be a matter of judicial record.

It is with this view of the logical and legal aspect of the relation of the lunatic to law, that we propose to enter upon the examination of the existing legislation concerning him in the United States.

According to our conception of the question, it is not merely a question of the lunatic's committal to an institution, but of his detention and discharge, and of the protection of his natural rights at every period of his insane life, in an institution or outside of all institutions; and of the obligation of the courts to see that he is protected, as they guard the property and persons of minor heirs. We hold that the duty of a court is not discharged when it has entered an order of commitment to a hospital or asylum, any more than it is discharged, in the case of an estate, when it enters an order requiring an administrator to deposit certain moneys in a certain bank.

The vice of American political institutions is the disposition which they engender to grasp after responsibilities which do not attach to us, and which we may well rejoice at escaping, while we shirk actual obligations and seek to throw off the responsibilities from which we can not escape upon some other person or officer. We are, it is true, an overworked people, but if we would confine ourselves to the strict discharge of duty, we should probably have time and strength to meet all demands upon either.

LUNACY-LAW REFORM IN ENGLAND.

The London correspondent of the *Weekly Medical Review* (St. Louis) writes as follows:

The government has lost no time in reintroducing into the House of Lords another Lunacy Acts Amendment Bill. The chief provision in it is the first, which is to furnish safeguards against the improper confinement of persons as lunatics. The bill provides for the appointment of special justices to make orders for the reception of lunatics not paupers; and, except in cases of urgency, a person not a pauper is not to be confined as a lunatic without an order of a county-court judge, stipendiary magistrate, or justice, to be obtained upon a petition presented, if possible, by a relative and accompanied by two medical certificates. Provision is made to secure privacy, and in order to give the county-court judge, magistrate, or justice something more than merely "ministerial" functions in cases which require investigation, he is empowered, if he considers the statements in the medical certificates unsatisfactory, to make inquiries, and, if he thinks it necessary, to visit the alleged lunatic. In urgent cases a patient may be confined upon an order of a relative accompanied by one medical certificate; but in that case a petition for an order must be presented to one of the recognized legal officials within seven days, and the urgency order only remains valid up to the expiration of the seven days, or while the petition is pending.

A report upon every private patient is to be sent to the commissioners in lunacy within a month after the patient's reception as a lunatic, and a visit is to be made to the lunatic as soon as possible. If the patient is found to be improperly detained, he is to be discharged. At the end of three years after the reception of a patient, and at the end of every subsequent year, a special report is to be made on his case. If no report is made, the order for his detention comes to an end.

The chief other matter dealt with in the bill is the endeavor to do away with private asylums, by enabling public asylums to be provided for the reception of inmates not paupers. In this way the government hopes to gradually abolish the existing private asylums, and save itself the expense of buying them up.

WHY NOT THE CONTRACT SYSTEM?

The argument against the contract system of prison labor, from the side of prison reform, may be stated in four propositions.

(1) There is no more reason why an incorrigible and dangerous convict—one who is desperate enough to take life, for instance, in the attempt to rob a house or a bank—should be released from custody, than there is why a wild beast should be set at liberty, or a dangerous lunatic.

(2) The only means by which all such dangerous convicts can be safely housed and held is the abolition of time sentences for crime and the substitution of reformation sentences for them.

(3) It would be absurd to enact any form of indeterminate sentence to a prison where the discipline is such that the convict is deprived of the opportunity to secure his release by amendment and good conduct. If his discharge is made to depend upon his reformation, as it should be, the government is bound to see that he has, while in prison, every possible facility for reforming, and the institution must be organized and administered with this supreme purpose. Otherwise any indefinite sentence would be most unjust and cruel.

(4) The contract system is an obstacle to the introduction into prisons of a reformatory discipline.

PAUPER RELIEF IN PENNSYLVANIA.

Mr. Robert D. McGonnigle has had the kindness to send us a copy of the proceedings of the eleventh annual session of the Association of Directors of the Poor of the State of Pennsylvania. It is a volume of more than 250 pages, and shows that the officers who administer the poor-law in that State take a real and growing interest in their work. Such meetings can not fail to be profitable to those who participate in them, and we wish that there were a similar convention in every State.

Naturally, the topics discussed were chiefly out-door relief, "trampery," pauper children, and State or county care of the insane: these are questions which will never wear out.

As to out-door relief in Pennsylvania, Mr. J. R. Sypher, of Philadelphia, pointed out that the statutes distinguish between tramps and vagrants. A vagrant has a domicile in the county in which he begs on the streets or from door to door, while a beggar not having such domicile is a tramp. A vagrant, on being brought before a magistrate, is committed to a workhouse; and for the purposes of the act every almshouse of the commonwealth is held to be a workhouse. But a tramp is on the contrary committed to the county jail. Opinions differed as to the adequacy of this legislation, and the duties of overseers under the law. One said, "I do not think that we want any new laws; we have law enough; what we do want is to have the laws we have put in force." Others thought that power should be conferred upon the boards of guardians of the poor in all the counties to compel the employment of tramps on the road or otherwise before giving them a meal or a night's lodging. There was a good deal of debate as to what constitutes a tramp. The point of it was that an honest working man seeking employment and out of money should not be regarded as a tramp. The professional vagrant came in for a scoring on all hands. Mr. Garrett said, "Work and cleanliness are the two things which, above all, these men hate." Mr. Walter called them "a pest," "a thoroughly organized set of rascals," "vampires on society," and said, "They know that Chester county feeds well, asks but few questions, and gives them no work, so they make a cross before every barn and mark the houses where the food is good and there is no dog." Mr. Davis complained that nothing will kill them—not even delirium tremens. Mr. French assured the convention that the professional tramp is the best posted of men on his subject; he knows everybody connected with the administration of relief from Pittsburgh to Philadelphia; the sharpest and best informed tramp he ever met was a newspaper reporter from Wisconsin. But how to distinguish the professional from a mechanic or laborer in actual need, that is the puzzle. Mr. Cundall thought not; in Washington county there is a "tramp house," and applicants for food or shelter "have got to go and break stone for two hours before they can get their supper, and in the morning we take them out at half-past five o'clock, and they have to work on the stone pile for two hours before they get their breakfast. I tell you we can tell the tramp by the way he works at the stone pile; he will fool around and do as little as he can." Mr. Carr also believed that any one who has had much experience can easily recognize "a horny-handed son of toil." Still the question confronts the authorities, what to do with them, even if they are "professionals." Mr. Carr declared, "I don't propose, so far as I am concerned, to entertain a single one of them." Mr. Davis said: "We won't have them, and they have found it out; we won't even give them a meal." (But in Germantown there is a relief society to which they can be sent, where the labor test is applied to them.) Mr. Sypher thought that where no other agency for relief but the board of guardians exists, to say "we will have nothing to do with you" is simply to turn them loose upon the community. "Timid women are afraid to refuse them, for fear of some outrage being committed upon the spot. The men are afraid to refuse, lest their barns may be burned. All that the farmer or the village resident can do is to give the tramp something to eat and encourage him to go on and leave them." Dr. Walk took the same view: "The successful beggar will not starve. I will tell you what he will do. He will go to your poor board, and if refused help, he will go to one of your first citizens, who has a house with a handsome front, and beg there; and if asked, 'Why don't you go to the poor board?' his reply will be, 'They don't touch strangers.' And the first thing that your benevolent citizen will do will be to pull out his pocket-book and give him a quarter. If you want to stop general begging, from house to house, you must provide some place to which members of the community can send the beggar for help, if he is all right." He also advised the authorities to refrain from forwarding tramps on their way at public expense, as is too often done, so that "many a man has travelled from Maine to California, sent on his way by the people, who specially desire to get rid of him." The statistics of trampery, as given in the report by a committee, which has the basis of this discussion, surprise us. "For the year ending December 31, 1884, twelve almshouses report the annual number of tramps in each as over 1,000. The six highest (Lancashire county was not reported) are: Chester county, 6,370; Somerset. 4,472; Lehigh, 3,315; Montgomery, 3,123; Allegheny, 2,677; Delaware, 2,294."

From the debate on out-door relief we learn that Pennsylvania has what we should characterize as a very bad general law, (from which certain counties are exempted by special enactments), which requires the guardians of the poor, when an applicant presents himself with proper papers, to proceed at once and furnish him relief. Mr. Shillito, of Franklin county, said: "We have what is called a pay-roll, and on that pay-roll we hsve 200 or 300 names. The parties get their pay and sign the roll. If they can not come to the place where the money is paid out, we send the money to some party in the immediate neighborhood, who distributes the fund, generally a merchant. Our list has increased to 200 or 300 men, and we pay out monthly about $500 for out-door relief." The parties placed on the list come with their applications signed by three respectable citizens of the county, setting forth the reason of their necessity and that they are worthy persons and entitled to a certain amount from the county treasury. If the statements made as to need and merit are found on investigation to be probably true, the directors think that they have no discretion in the matter. Mr. Brown, of Lancaster county, admitted that the practice there and in other rural counties is the same as in Franklin. It is easy to imagine what a door this system opens to political corruption; and Mr. Walters, of Philadelphia, was doubtless justified in remarking that "of the money given in out-door relief, a large proportion goes for whiskey and another portion to debauch elections." "In Germantown," said Mr. Davis, "I remember one case of an Irishman, and I always admired him for his cheek. He wanted us to provide for him. He did not want to stay in the almshouse, but he wanted to come out; and he asked us to give him five dollars a month, and promised that if we would do that, he would buy his whiskey out of it." The discussion turned on the necessity for out-door relief, the proper mode of giving it, and the effect. Pennsylvania is largely a mining and manufacturing community, afflicted with strikes and lock-outs, and in the rural districts, where there is no organized private charity, it is quite likely that its total abolition would lead to some unnecessary suffering. But there is no excuse for permanent out-door relief, such as that given in Blair county, where "there are parties who consider themselves life-members;" or relief without due investigation and frequent revision of the rolls, which seems to be not uncommon. In Allegheny county, by engaging a "messenger" (or visitor) to inquire into the condition of every applicant and to find out the circumstances of the family in every particular, the amount expended in this di-

rection has been cut down from $22,000 a year to about $2,000. In Dauphin county, where there were formerly 139 on the out-door list, there are now only 33 ; the county erected an almshouse which cost $150,000 and adopted a rule that persons who declined to go there should not have aid ; but according to the testimony of Mr. Rutherford, "there is not one gone to the poorhouse yet, and I do not know that we have had a single addition to the poorhouse from this class of persons, and I do not know that a single person has suffered." He related the case of a colored woman, a manumitted slave, from Maryland, a pensioner of a wealthy woman who was the wife of a very prominent citizen. This lady was herself one of the best citizens of the town of Harrisburgh, but when the colored woman was stricken from the roll, the lady considered it a great hardship, since she would have to make up the deficiency in her income. In Philadelphia, during five years, from 1875 to 1879, $370,000 was paid out for out-door relief ; during the last five years all such relief has been cut off ; the result, instead of being an increase of in-door relief, was a decrease amounting to $50,000 a year. We agree with Mr. Sypher that because a name is on the list one year is *primâ facie* a reason why it should not be on the next. The question resolves itself largely into a dispute whether we shall manufacture paupers in almshouses or manufacture them for almshouses ; and it would seem to be good sense to stop the manufacture outside, at least. At the same time, the remark of Mr. Garrett deserves consideration, that "the best kind of relief is that *wisely and judiciously* administered at home." We doubt whether public officials will ever administer relief with the same care and success as private individuals ; and we approve of the placing of funds intended for distribution outside of the almshouse, in the hands of some association which has the confidence of the community, and which will have no political end to accomplish by favoring anybody, as is done, it is said, in Harrisburgh.

The great work of emptying the almshouses of Pennsylvania of pauper children, of which this Association is justly proud, has been facilitated by the organization of the Children's Aid Society and its branches. The object of the Children's Aid Society is to provide for the welfare of destitute and neglected children by such means as shall be best for them and for the community. The method of accomplishing this is :

(1) By placing such children in carefully selected families, mostly in the country, paying a moderate rate of board where necessary, and following up each case with such inquiry and supervision as may secure to the child the conditions of physical and moral well-being.

(2) By utilizing existing institutions for children as temporary homes while permanent family places are being sought.

(3) By putting, as far as possible, the support of the child upon its relatives or parents, legitimate or otherwise, and by preventing the needless separation of mothers and children.

(4) By keeping an open office (30 S. 17th st., Philadelphia) where any citizen can obtain free information about public provision and private opportunities for homeless children.

The experience and observation of the society have led it to formulate the following general conclusions :

(1) That there is no need of any more public institutions for the care of destitute children, and that much of the money now devoted to orphanages, etc., might be more usefully spent in securing homes for such children in private families and paying their board.

(2) That there is no serious difficulty in finding suitable private homes, on the boarding-out plan, for all homeless children, except such as require treatment in hospitals or training in idiot asylums.

(3) That children brought up in institutions are not so well fitted for their later life outside such institutions, as those reared in families. Congregated in large numbers, they run greater risk of contagious disease ; they lead an unnatural life of monotony or stimulation ; they must all be treated alike, with a minimum of personal regard ; they are often at the mercy of hired care-takers with little parental feeling.

(4) Child-caring institutions are nevertheless important as temporary homes, or as receiving and forwarding houses for the children while permanent places are being found.

(5) The law forbidding the detention of these children in almshouses can best be carried out by the co-operation of the directors of the poor with voluntary associations of discreet and benevolent women who are willing to find places for the children, look after their welfare, and report to the directors. It is for the interest of the tax-payers that these children be taken out of the pauper class as soon as possible and absorbed in the community.

(6) In a county where such an association exists, and where the directors make fair allowance for the support of the children, there is no excuse for detaining any child in the head-quarters for paupers, and no need of creating an institution for pauper children.

We are compelled to pass over much upon which we would have been glad to comment, and conclude by a brief mention of the discussion of the best mode of caring for the insane. The advantages of State hospitals as compared with the county receptacles were clearly brought out ; but some of the speakers expressed the opinion that there will never come a time when counties will not have to care for more or less of their own insane paupers, owing to insufficient provision by the State and other reasons. Dr. McCreary, of Lancaster, who was formerly connected with a State institution for the insane and is now in charge of a county institution, undoubtedly gave expression to a true thought, when he said : "I don't believe for my part that you can take seven hundred or a thousand patients and handle them with the same advantage that you can fifty or one hundred." He thought that with smaller numbers patients receive more personal attention and are more easily and certainly occupied in useful labor. He added : "So far as classification is concerned, it is not quite so much of an advantage as some persons think." Mr. Rockwell sounded the key-note of opposition to county insane asylums, when he said : "If our poor or insane (in Lackawanna county) are not properly cared for, it is not for the want of money, it is because we do not know how." There is very little likelihood that the authorities of any rural county will, under our political system, ever learn how to take care of the insane properly. Mr. Biddle (unintentionally and through misapprehension) somewhat misquoted the remark of the editor of the RECORD at Saratoga, last summer, respecting the Wisconsin plan, when he quoted him as having said that "he had been made a convert" to that plan. It has great merits, and, where county institutions are tolerated, they should be under substantially such supervision and control by State officials as is exercised in Wisconsin. But the system has not been in operation long enough to be thoroughly tested as yet. Delegates to the Conference of Charities at St. Paul, next July, will have the opportunity to examine its working, on their way to or from Minnesota.

HEALTH ACROSTIC.

The Trinity Church Association of New York City distributes gratuitously among the tenement-houses in the lower wards of the city the following hints on the preservation of health, in verse printed on a card :

As soon as you are up, shake blankets and sheet ;
Better be without shoes than sit with wet feet ;
Children, if healthy, are active, not still ;
Damp beds and damp clothes will both make you ill ;
Eat slowly, and always chew your food well ;
Freshen the air in the house where you dwell ;
Garments must never be made to be tight ;
Homes will be healthy, if airy and light ;
If you wish to be well, as you do, I 've no doubt,
Just open the windows before you go out ;
Keep your rooms always tidy and clean,
Let dust on the furniture never be seen ;
Much illness is caused by the want of pure air,
Now to open your windows be ever your care ;
Old rags and old rubbish should never be kept ;
People should see that their floors are well swept ;
Quick movements in children are healthy and right ;
Remember the young cannot thrive without light.
See that the cistern is clean to the brim ;
Take care that your dress is all tidy and trim ;
Use your nose to find out if there be a bad drain,
Very sad are the fevers that come in its train.
Walk as much as you can without feeling fatigue ;
Xerxes could walk full many a league ;
Your health is your wealth, which your wisdom must keep ;
Zeal will help a good cause, and the good you will reap.

LUNACY AND CHARITY IN MASSACHUSETTS.

The Seventh Annual Report of the State Board of Health, Lunacy, and Charity, of Massachusetts, is an interesting document, though the arrangement of the matter contained in it is such as to render it somewhat difficult reading, and there are some arithmetical inconsistencies of statement in it, which appear to indicate haste in the preparation of portions of it.

The relations and functions of this board differ in many particulars from those of similar boards in other States. It has three standing committees, one on health, one on lunacy, and one on charities, whose three chairmen constitute a standing executive committee. It maintains four departments, each of which is in charge of a chief executive officer; Dr. S. W. Abbott is the health officer, Mr. F. B. Sanborn is inspector of charities, Mr. S. C. Wrightington is superintendent of the in-door poor and Mr. H. S. Shurtleff is superintendent of out-door poor. The total cost of the board for the year closing September 30, 1885, was $70,517.69; the number of paid employés in its service exceeds fifty. We doubt our ability to give our readers a clear conception of its organization and work, but will attempt the task, hoping that any mis-statement into which we may accidentally fall will be corrected by our friend, Mr. Sanborn.

There are eleven State institutions subject to the general supervision of the board, namely: five lunatic hospitals, at Worcester (in two separate departments, one of which is called a hospital and the other an asylum), Taunton, Northampton, Danvers, and Westborough (homœopathic, not yet completed, adapted to the care of the insane, but formerly occupied by the reform school); the almshouse at Tewksbury (which has an insane department), the workhouse at Bridgewater, the primary school at Monson, the Lyman school for boys at Westborough (formerly called the reform school), the industrial school for girls at Lancaster, and the school for the feeble-minded (in two departments, one in South Boston and the other in Dover). The aggregate disbursements by these eleven institutions (not including the Westborough insane hospital) was, during the year ending September 30, 1885, $860,132.16, of which $779,164.95 is classed as current expenditures; their total income was $1,029,069.92, of which $405,599.22 was derived from the State treasury. The average number of inmates was 5,017; the whole number of persons treated in them during the year, 9,030. The eye and ear infirmary and the infant asylum are not included in this statement. We do not understand that the State Board has direct control of any portion of this expenditure, but that it is controlled by the local boards of trustees of the several institutions.

It will be observed that this board has no connexion with the institutions for the blind or the deaf and dumb, which are under the State superintendent of public schools, nor with the prisons, which are under the prison commissioners.

The board has also a certain supervision over the town almshouses, of which, including private almshouses owned or leased by individuals but maintained at the public expense, there are 225 in the State, with a total population, September 30, 1885, of 4,612 inmates, and an average during the year of 4,771, supported at an aggregate cost not stated, but for the year ending March 31st it is given as $521,421. From the remarks made on page 146 we conclude that the inconveniences of the town almshouse system are beginning to force themselves upon the attention of the people of Massachusetts. Besides the almshouses, the board supervises the expenditures by cities and towns for out-door relief, and for the support of paupers in the State lunatic asylums. The total cost of pauperism for the year ending March 31st is said to have been $1,868,479, of which $412,554 was for maintenance in lunatic asylums; the average number of persons supported in whole or in part was 25,000.

In the foregoing statement State paupers are not included. By State paupers are meant those maintained or relieved at the expense of the State, who have no legal settlement in any town. The law of settlement, with its numberless complications, is the root of the complicated system of public charity peculiar to Massachusetts. Few persons under the most favorable circumstances can acquire a local settlement in less than five years; practically many do not acquire one in ten years, and there are not a few who, moving from town to town, never gain a settlement. For all such the State board acts as almoner of the bounty of the State. In this capacity it has upon its hands a constantly growing army of dependents; the whole number of persons thus relieved in the past year is estimated at 22,000. To keep down the number, and save the public treasury from depletion, the board has to spend much effort in the direction of investigation of settlements with a view to compelling the towns to bear their own proper burdens; wherever a claim can be established it has to collect whatever sums may be due the State; and it has to see that those whom it aids are, on the one hand, deserving of assistance, and, on the other, properly cared for. The amount of work entailed upon it is enormous, and to those accustomed to a simpler system appears in large measure unnecessary and unprofitable.

It is evidently the interest of the State to prevent, as far as possible, the landing of pauper immigrants, and this board acts, under a contract with the national government, as a board of commissioners of immigration; this branch of its work is under the general charge of the superintendent of in-door poor. The passenger lists of incoming vessels are carefully scrutinized, and convicts, lunatics, idiots, or other persons unable to support themselves without becoming a public charge, are not allowed to land. The number of immigrants not permitted to land at the port of Boston, last year, was 21. The legislature makes a special appropriation for the transportation of State paupers, and many of them, whose residence is ascertained to be outside of the State, are shipped to their homes in other States or countries. The number sent away was 2,028, of whom 624 were sent out of the United States.

The presence of any pauper without a local settlement, in any town, is notified to the board by the overseers of the poor; the board sends a visitor to investigate the case, who makes a report; the proper officer of the board then acts upon it. If he is found to have a settlement anywhere in the State, he is turned over to the proper local authorities; if not, and he is not sent out of the State, he is helped temporarily or sent to one of the State establishments or boarded out, according to the circumstances of the case.

In Massachusetts, the boarding-out system has reached a high stage of development. The sick State poor, who can not be removed to the State almshouse, are of course treated at their homes, at State expense. Foundlings and abandoned infants are cared for in the infant asylum, or sent directly to private homes for care; nine tenths of those sent to the infant asylum are boarded out. Older children in charge of the board are also placed at board, in some cases, in private families; the whole number remaining in boarding-places, January 1, 1886, was 208. The whole number of insane persons boarding in private families at public expense, at the same date, was about 90.

A very important duty of the board is the supervision of the State minor wards or children of the State, who fall under three divisions—those received from the overseers of the poor, those who come before the courts, and those who are discharged from the State establishments. The number of children subject to visitation by the agents of the board, October 1, 1885, was 1,244; there were added to the list, during the year, 365; dropped from the list, 326; and remaining, at the close of the year, 1,283. A table in the appendix gives the disposition of these children.

Where children come before the courts, the law requires that an agent of this board shall attend the examination, as the friend of the child, and see that the best possible disposition

of the case is made. The number of cases attended was 1,701. The following is the result: 30 failed to appear, 259 were dismissed or discharged, 606 were released on probation, 244 were released on payment of fine or fine and costs, 73 were held for the superior court, 93 were committed to prisons, 169 to reformatory institutions, 66 to the care of overseers of the poor, and 61 to the care of the State board.

The cost of the departments of in-door and out-door poor, for office expenses and visitation, was $41,569.51. In addition to this amount, these departments had the control of special appropriations amounting to $254,700, of which $136,000 was for the payment of bills for the support of State insane paupers in the lunatic asylums.

The inspector of charities is, in addition to other special duties, virtually a State commissioner in lunacy. The powers of the board in this direction are much larger than in most States. The number of insane in Massachusetts is growing, as it is everywhere, with alarming rapidity. Mr. Sanborn states, on page lxxv, that within the past ten years the number of insane has increased in that State by forty per cent., while the gain in the total population has been only twenty per cent. He estimates the number of insane at the present time at 6,000 or more. The number who have passed under the official notice of the board during the year is about 6,000, of whom not more than 800 are known to have recovered or died. We think that the necessity of a more thorough supervision of the insane in private families is imperative, if any thing positive is to be ascertained as to the increase of insanity, the actual death-rate, and rate of recovery, and we do not comprehend the attitude of those superintendents of hospitals for the insane, who oppose the creation of competent commissions in lunacy, which will take a wider survey of the entire field than ispossible for the officers of institutions, who know, presumably, little more than what passes under their personal observation.

We have not space to speak of the health department of the board, and it is not necessary that we should do so.

We will only add that the board appears to have the power to pardon inmates of the workhouse, and that it holds and invests the moneys belonging to children committed to its care.

We have received advance sheets of the report of the New York State Board of Charities, but wait to review it until we have the full report with the appendix. The reports of the other State boards are slow in coming to hand.

THE NEW YORK CITY INSANE.

The Commissioners of Public Charities and Correction of the City of New York have taken a new departure in the management of the institutions for the insane on the islands, by appointing Dr. A. E. Macdonald general superintendent of the insane of the department. The resolutions adopted by the commissioners are as follows:

Resolved, That the following resolutions be approved and adopted:

1. There shall be appointed by the Board of Public Charities and Correction a General Superintendent of the Insane, who shall have general supervision of the insane coming under the care of the Department.

2. The institutions subject to his supervision shall be as follows, to wit: The Reception Pavilion for the Insane at Bellevue Hospital; The New York City Lunatic Asylum on Blackwell's Island; The New York City Asylum for the Insane on Ward's Island, and the branches thereof upon Ward's, Randall's, and Hart's Islands, and the Farm on Long Island.

3. It shall be his duty to visit each of the several institutions above named once in each week, or as often as may be necessary, to advise with the officers in charge thereof, and to inspect the wards, buildings, etc., and the patients confined therein.

4. He shall attend at the office of the commissioners once in each week, or more often if required, and shall then make to them such reports and recommendations as he may see fit, for their action thereupon.

5. All reports and communications from the various institutions, other than such as are matters of routine, or provided for by orders from the board, shall be made to it from the heads of the several institutions through the general superintendent, and as far as possible in writing at the time herein provided.

6. He shall forthwith establish, so far as may be practicable, schools for the instruction of the attendants upon the insane employed in the various institutions; shall prepare and submit to the board for approval, rules for their government, and shall have power to call upon the various medical officers of these institutions to take part in the giving of instruction therein.

7. He shall report to the board such recommendations and plans as may conduce in his judgment to the more extended employment of the insane in such useful occupations as may be of benefit to themselves and the department.

8. Transfers of patients from any one to another of the institutions named, and the return of patients from the several branches to the main asylums, or from the latter to the reception pavilion, shall be made only with his knowledge and approval.

Resolved. That under resolutions passed this day Dr. A. E. Macdonald is appointed General Superintendent of the Insane of this Department.

OVERCROWDING THE INSANE.

Dr. T. W. Fisher, of the Boston Lunatic Hospital, thus graphically describes the results of overcrowding in the instruction under his charge. The evils complained of are felt outside of Boston. Overcrowding tends to become the rule everywhere. Not until the pressure becomes unbearable, often, is it possible to arouse the attention of the authorities who alone can make the necessary appropriations for enlarged facilities for the care of the insane; and before the plans for additional accommodation can be realized, the pressure is again as great as before, if not greater. It seems to be impossible to keep in advance of the demand for room.

With about sixty patients sleeping in attics never intended for their use, and a dining-room capacity of only 180 seats, and not a single vacant place for the additional attendants required by the increased number of patients, we are indeed nearly at the limit of our capacity. When a hospital becomes crowded to this extent, its usefulness largely disappears. It no longer fulfils its proper function as a hospital, and becomes a mere lodging and feeding place for the insane. The surplus of patients who sleep in the attics must be distributed in the day-rooms of the other wards by day. This, in a small hospital like ours, destroys what little attempt at classification we can make in our three wards for each sex. Objectionable patients, harmful to each other, are forced to remain closely associated. Whenever changes from ward to ward, or room to room are made—such as are constantly required by the changing condition of our inmates—half-a-dozen patients must be moved, to make temporary provision for a single one. In this way patients are annoyed and irritated, and their recovery retarded in many cases. The insane, as a rule, object to change when once accustomed to their immediate surroundings. More restraint, chemical and mechanical, is required in a hospital crowded as ours is. Excited patients whose noise deprives those of sleep whose very life may depend on it, must be quieted at some rate, if drugs will do it. Suicidal patients forced to sleep in single rooms, or dangerous patients forced to sleep in associated dormitories, must be sometimes restrained by the camisole, when a proper classification would prevent this unwelcome necessity. The hospital is not only crowded but is becoming choked with chronic cases, as always happens when there is no increase of accommodation or chance of transfer. The percentage of recoveries has diminished. In spite of our nnmbers, the emergency cases have not perceptibly diminished. There are sure to be at least fifty cases of noisy, violent, excited, and dangerous patients of this class annually, who must be received and cared for, regardless of our lack of room. The lower ward in each wing for this class is already full of cases of the same description, all unfit to be associated with the quiet patients in the middle and upper wards. These wards have long been encroached upon by patients unfit for them, and altercations and accidents are only avoided by constant vigilance and too frequent seclusion of patients who should have constant exercise in the wards or out of doors. No one can realize the harm resulting from this state of things, unless he has had actual experience of it.

Intoxicating drinks are material, irritant, narcotic poisons, which tend to distort the mental vision, disturb the reason, and enervate the will; they affect human beings as other poisons do, in varying degrees, according to the idiosyncrasies of the individuals who make use of them.—Dr. Norman Kerr.

STATE CHARITIES AID.

It is not easy to give in a few words any adequate idea of the scope of the work planned and more or less thoroughly executed each year by the State Charities Aid Association of New York. It is largely a society for the collection and dissemination of information, and for the study of special topics by select committees, of which it has this year eight—on children ; on adult able-bodied paupers ; on hospitals (with a sub-committee on the insane and another on trained nurses for the insane) ; on the elevation of the poor in their homes (with four sub-committees) ; on finance ; on the organization of county visiting committees ; on postal savings-banks ; and on laws relating to dependent children. The local committees appointed by it in each county of the State visit, inspect, and report upon the condition and management of the county almshouses and other charitable institutions supported by public money. It has issued, from time to time, a valuable series of books and pamphlets, and has accumulated quite a library of tracts and treatises on all branches of charitable and correctional work. Its annual expenses are about $5,000.

From the thirteenth annual report we learn that the committee on children is strongly impressed with the evils of institutional life for children, and an earnest advocate of more systematic and persistent effort to find homes for them in private families. "The exclusion of children from the poorhouses is one of the greatest of the reforms which charitable work has accomplished in the last decade, but from its not having been carried far enough it has developed another evil. Many children, whose parents and guardians would not be willing to subject them to the degradation of the poorhouse, are cheerfully consigned to the education and training of private charitable institutions, for the sake of putting the expense of their maintenance upon the public." Some interesting remarks are made by the committee on the removal of dependent children from New York "homes" and asylums to the West, through the intervention of the Children's Aid Society ; and attention is called to the necessity of legislative action to prevent the spread of ophthalmic disease in orphan asylums and residential schools.

The committee on adult able-bodied paupers thinks that the highest interests of the community demand the entire abolition of the system of out-door relief ; suggests the propriety of a more rigid enforcement of the "tramp act" ; complains of the use made of poorhouses by disreputable women who resort to them to be confined, often leaving their babies behind them as a charge upon the county ; and regrets the failure to pass the municipal lodging-house bill.

The subjects touched upon by the committee on the elevation of the poor in their homes are : Penny savings in schools, postal savings-banks, legal aid to the poor, the detention of witnesses, tenement house reform, co-operative and provident associations, coffee-houses, working girls' societies. It advises the organization of "loan relief," so that some one association shall do the work for the whole city of New York, and as to the manner of conducting the business, thinks that "the methods of the pawn-broker should be followed in all things except the exaction of usury." It congratulates itself that the movement for the promotion of working-girls' societies, of which the State Charities Aid was originator, has culminated in the organization of an association of working-girls' societies, and that the work has passed out of its hands. Concerning coffee-houses, it observes :

In England, out of fifty-three "limited liability" companies, conducting coffee-houses, coffee-taverns, cabmen's shelter, and similar places, only three were said to have been running at a loss in 1884. Of the others, fifteen paid dividends at the rate of five per cent. per annum, and thirteen paid ten per cent. and over. These companies are described as having capital, and some of them as owning or conducting several houses, while some of the buildings are large and fine, with restaurants, libraries, and private rooms for dinners, games, and concerts. They seem to succeed better than private enterprises, by reason of better management and having sufficient capital to overcome the losses of bad years—the first year or two, it is said, seldom pays. A profitable and beneficial feature is said to be the establishment by the companies of temporary houses or stands at places where bodies of men are employed for a time.

The special committee on the insane supports the recommendation of the commissioner of lunacy that the State be divided into asylum districts ; it disapproves of the county system of care, and says that the course pursued by the State Board of Charities is gradually adding to the number of meagrely equipped county institutions for the insane ; it regards the introduction of woman physicians as assistant medical officers in women's wards as a promising reform. The chief interest of the committee, however, centres in the work of the sub-committee on trained nurses, which has cherished the hope of ultimately establishing a training school for nurses for the insane, similar in character to the Bellevue Training School. In the establishment of such a school it had three objects in view :

(1) That the asylum where the school should be located might be brought to a high degree of efficiency as regards its attendance and become a model for other institutions. (2) That each year a certain number of hospital graduates should receive special training in the care of the insane, and thus a class of women be created in the community from which could be drawn very efficient matrons and head nurses for insane asylums. (3) That capable and experienced nurses might be supplied to nervous and insane patients at their own homes.

The sub-committee tried to establish such a school at Flatbush, but failed ; yet it feels that the experiment there made has been a success and will bear fruit. It is gratified to know that the work inaugurated by it is carried on by the superintendent, though in a manner different from that proposed.

A special committee of this association performs the function of a hospital newspaper society, and its boxes are visible in convenient places in different parts of the city, to receive transient matter deposited in them.

The Society for First Aid to the Injured is an offshoot of the Charities Aid, and occupies the same or an adjoining office, at 21 University Place.

THE NATIONAL PRISON ASSOCIATION.

At a meeting of the directors of the National Prison Association, held in New York, March 12th, it was decided to hold the next annual meeting at Atlanta, Georgia, from the 5th to the 11th of November. The prospect of a successful conference at that time and place is very bright. There will be fewer papers, it is said, than in Detroit. Nearly two days will be given to the discussion of the question of prison labor. A memorial address for Gov. Seymour will be delivered during the session.

The committee on United States Prisons, of which Gen. Brinkerhoff is chairman, was authorized to prepare a bill embodying the expressed views of the association and have it introduced in Congress.

The annual report will soon appear, and will contain the proceedings at Saratoga in 1884, and those at Detroit in 1885. The price to the public will be seventy-five cents a copy ; to members of the association, fifty cents, if ordered in advance, in lots of not less than twenty copies, for distribution. Orders should be sent to the Secretary, Mr. W. M. F. Round, 65 Bible House, New York.

A NEW PRISON SOCIETY.

At Denver, on the 18th of February, a society was organized, of which the Hon. Wilbur F. Stone, ex-Justice of the Supreme Court, is president, called the Colorado Christian Association for the Aid of the Criminal and Unfortunate. The warden of the penitentiary and two of the former governors of the State are among the vice-presidents. Its declared objects are : to aid discharged prisoners in securing employment ; to secure such discipline in the State prison as shall be best calculated to promote the reformation of the prisoners ; to promote such legislation as will

secure the limitation of a certain number of years for a life sentence, or to determine a certain age at which a life sentence shall end, so that those sentenced for life shall have the benefit of the law applying to those sentenced for a term of years; to devise some means whereby cruel and excessive sentences can be reduced to the minimum rate; to encourage legislation which will remove our penal, reformatory, and benevolent institutions from the domain of politics, making the tenure of office secure to capable, humane and efficient officers. This society proposes to have a corresponding secretary in every county-seat, and in every important town throughout the State, whose duty it shall be, under the direction of the executive committee, to find work for discharged convicts, receive them, and watch over them. The secretary, Mr. George M. Harris, writes us: "This association designs to begin where prison reformation ends, that is, to take these men as they come out of prison and secure them situations away from old associations and temptations; to procure them transportation to various parts of the State, where labor can be obtained; and the money necessarily expended in doing this the association proposes to lend to them, to be repaid as soon as possible, thereby appealing to their manhood, and at once putting upon them responsibility, which so often helps to keep a man straight."

TEMPERANCE AND INEBRIETY.

Dr. Rush, of Philadelphia, in 1790, urged that inebriety is a disease and should be studied as such. In 1826, a temperance society was organized in Boston, followed by a similar organization in New York in 1828. The Washington societies sprang into existence in 1840. This movement was greatly promoted by the labors of Father Matthew, John B. Gough, and Neal Dow. The Maine liquor law was enacted in 1851. In 1852 the first asylum for the medical care and treatment of inebriates was projected by Dr. I. Edward Turner, whose efforts culminated in the opening of the New York State Hospital, in which, during its brief existence of fourteen years, 2,344 inebriates were treated. In 1859 a similar hospital was started in Boston, of which Dr. Albert Day is the superintendent, and it is now known as the Washingtonian Home. In the past twenty-five years, it has cared for 8,000 patients. The Binghamton Asylum, in fifteen years, received 7,000 cases. An inebriate asylum for women in the State of Connecticut will, when completed, contain 300 rooms. In 1870, the American Association for the Care of Inebriates was organized. Of thirty asylums for inebriates in the United States, twenty-six survive; and under the inspiration of a Christian civilization, over 1,000 temperance coffee- and lodging-rooms and sailors' homes, where no liquor is sold, have been opened in this country—most of them under the auspices of the Women's Christian Temperance Union.

For the above facts, we acknowledge our indebtedness to the paper of Dr. Frederick Horner, of Marshall, Virginia, read before the Naval Medical Society.

Dr. Horner advocates the establishment of a special hospital for the treatment of inebriates in the navy. He says: "At least one of the various naval hospitals now appropriated for the treatment of the sick and wounded might be judiciously set apart for the special care, relief, and cure of the unfortunate victims of inebriety of the American naval service.

Milk charged with carbonic acid, it is said, will keep for an indefinite length of time, and some prophets think that this will soon become a popular drink.

To prevent glue cracking when dry, add one tablespoonful of glycerine to a pint of the solution while hot. It is also said that the cracking may be prevented by the addition of chloride of calcium to the glue, which prevents its drying so completely as to become brittle. Glue thus treated will adhere to glass, metals, etc., and can be employed for affixing labels to bottles.—*Pop. Science News.*

STATISTICS OF THE BLIND.

The following table originally appeared, we believe, in *Progress* a bi-monthly magazine published in Braille type, by the British and Foreign Blind Association, 33 Cambridge Square, London, W. We have not tested its accuracy. It exhibits the number of blind persons in a million, of each sex, in the countries named.

	Male	Female		Male	Female
England and Wales	953	809	German Empire .	884	881
Scotland . . .	865	827	Hungary . . .	1,280	1,123
Ireland	1,141	1,219	Holland . . .	494	394
Denmark . . .	776	793	Belgium . . .	982	641
Norway	1,313	1,411	France	948	726
Sweden	768	843	Spain	1,242	1,011
Finland	1,514	2,938	Italy	1,106	925

The number in the United States in 1880, as reported in the census, was: males, 954; females, 1,112. This would seem, according to the figures given in the table, to be about a normal proportion, and to confirm the approximate accuracy of the last census, as compared with those which preceded it.

At the first Russian Medical Congress at St. Petersburg in January last, Dr. A. T. Skrebitzki read a paper on the "Distribution and Statistics of Blindness in Russia." In five years the number of young men who underwent a medical inspection for enrolment in the army was 1,388,761, of whom 13,686, or nearly one per cent., were found to be blind in one eye or in both. The number who were blind in one eye was to the number blind in both eyes as one to four.

A DEAF-MUTE RESTORED TO HEARING.

In the *Medical Record* Dr. W. H. Bates reports that he has benefited a number of cases of obstinate deafness, by puncturing or incising the drum-membrane in from five to ten different places. Simple punctures were made, or the drum-membrane was slit in various directions. The size and freedom of the incisions must be determined after the first operation for each case. The result of the operation is to leave a number of cicatrices in the drum-membrane; the subsequent contraction of these produces a tension by which the membrane is drawn out. The membrane frees itself from adhesions in this manner, and in many cases loosens the anchylosed ossicles. The subsequent healing of the openings is part of the improving process. A deaf-mute girl, seventeen years of age, treated by him, can hear the ticking of a watch, at least six inches distant, with both ears; she hears conversation, even in a whisper, and is acquiring the rudiments of speech.

Persons suffering from chronic non-suppurative inflammation of the middle ear (and also sometimes from the acute and catarrhal forms of the disease) can usually hear quite acutely in the presence of much noise and din, but are hard of hearing in quiet places. The cause of this phenomenon is probably to be found in some change in the articulations of the tones of the middle ear. The treatment of this condition is mostly unsatisfactory in adults, but success may be anticipated while the patient is still young.—*Med. World.*

Much less permanent deafness, and even deaf-mutism, will affect the people, when the members of the medical profession make it their duty to study the condition of the tympanum in every case of scarlatina, measles, and whooping-cough. There seems to be no doubt that immense evil might be prevented by free excision of the membrane in very many cases in which it becomes inflamed during the course of the exanthemata; and there can be little doubt that the mortality at least from scarlatina might be appreciably diminished by treatment directed to the ear.—HINTON.

It is important that obstetricians and nurses should be carefully taught the anatomy and pathology of the ear, as the deafness of many so-called congenital mutes is the result of mucus or blood in their meatus or tympanic cavity at birth. Another cause is physicians not attending in time to the catarrhal deafness resulting from cold or from exposure or teething. The nurse is often at fault in placing the ears of infants in draughts of cold air, and allowing cold water to enter the meatus, pass back to the membrane, lodge there, and cause acute inflammation, shown by intense pain and persistent ear-ache, not relieved until perforation of the drum takes place, or extension to the internal ear, or to the brain.—Dr. LAWRENCE TURNBULL, in *Med. and Surg. Reporter.*

Trifles make perfection, but perfection is no trifle.

The appropriation of money to protect the public health is a duty which the law-maker owes to the people whom he represents, and its performance is a partial discharge of an obligation arising out of the ultimate purposes of government everywhere.—JOHN STUART MILL.

JOSEPH PERKINS.

The friends of Mr. Joseph Perkins, the wealthy, public-spirited and generous banker of Cleveland, Ohio, who was connected with so many charities, will find an excellent steel engraving of him in the 33d annual report of the Cleveland Protestant Orphan Asylum, of which he was president. From the same report we clip a pretty story of his last visit to the institution.

In June the children gave a delightful closing exercise. Several of the trustees and managers, with invited guests, were present. Mr. Perkins was of the number, and none seemed more entirely pleased and interested than did he.

At the close of the children's exercise, upon invitation to say a few words to them, he told them of the interest he felt in them and the pleasure he had in listening to their recitations, particularly to "Home Culture" and "Bible Study."

He said: "These lessons are of priceless value to you, and I hope every child will remember them, so that when you go out from this to other homes, they may go with you and help you there—help you each to form a good and beautiful character.

"My mother used to tell me a story of a very poor, but very good old woman, who earned her living by gathering and selling herbs. She had many friends among her customers, who, because of her excellent character, had great respect for her. At one of the places where she often called, the lady was not at home one day; but a little daughter was there, and, knowing how much her mother thought of the old herb-woman, asked her what she would most like to have. The good woman said she needed, most of anything, a new dress! This pleased the child, who thought: Surely my mother will give her a new dress.

"'What kind of a dress would you like—a calico dress?'

"'No,' said the herb-woman, 'that would wear out too soon.'

"'A gingham dress?'

"'No; that too would last but a short time.'

"'A worsted dress?'

"'No; I would not have time to make that, and I have not money enough to pay for it.'

"Then the little girl, after naming every kind of a dress she could think of, said:

"'Is it a silk dress you would like?'

"'No; that would cost too much. The dress that I wish for, your mamma has not money enough to buy. It will never wear out or grow old, and is more beautiful than any you have named.'

"The little girl could not think what this wonderful dress should be, but the good woman said:

"'The dress I so much want is the Robe of Righteousness.'

"And, children, righteousness means *right doing*, and a robe of righteousness is a life of right doing, and every one of you may have such a dress. Money cannot buy it, but Christ the loving Saviour has paid the price, so that you each may have one. He has said:

"'Suffer the children to come unto me, and forbid them not, for of such is the kingdom of heaven.'

"And these beautiful lessons, if they sink down into your hearts—if you remember and cherish them—will show you how to lead a life of right doing, or wear a Robe of Righteousness."

"As ointment poured forth" are these, his last words to the children of the Asylum Home, and through them "he being dead yet speaketh."

Man never attains tranquillity as long as he believes that he is right in all his thoughts and actions towards all the world. But as soon as he begins to doubt, when he once admits that he may have gone astray, that he must take himself to task, then come reconciliation with the world, contentment, and peace. With acknowledgment of his error and recognition of the truth, come at last and by degrees satisfaction and happiness to his heart, which always speaks truth to the upright.—SCHEFER.

AN UNEXPECTED CONVERT.

An advocate of the Irish prison system has appeared in Belgium, in the person of the inspector-general of prisons, who is also professor of penal law in the University of Brussels. This is the more remarkable, because in Belgium, more than in any other country, the separate system has been carried to the highest point of excellence and thoroughly tested at Louvain and at Ghent. M. Prins believes that both the physical and moral health of the convict will gain by the application of the Crofton system, while the drain upon the public treasury for prison construction will be diminished.

FOREIGN PRISON JOURNALS.

We desire to acknowledge the receipt of the *Bulletin de la Société Générale des Prisons* for January and February, published in Paris; the second and third numbers of the 20th volume of the *Blätter für Gefängnisskünde*, published at Heidelberg, and edited by Privy Councillor Ekert; also the third number of the eighth volume of the *Nordisk Tidsskrift for Fængelsvæsen*, the official organ of the Scandinavian Prison Society, edited by Fr. Stuckenberg, and published at Copenhagen.

FACT AND OPINION.

We should be able to give our readers much more intelligence under this head, if every subscriber to the RECORD would regard himself as a member of a mutual information society, of which this paper is the official organ, and would send promptly such items as he may think would be of interest to other members of the association. We do not wish to depend upon our exchanges and a judicious use of the scissors. We prefer to be quoted as original authority. The conditions under which the RECORD is printed are such, that the matter for the May number, for instance, has to be all in type by the middle of April; and if we cannot depend on the voluntary aid of our friends, we must either omit to mention many events which we should take pleasure in chronicling, or give them the news a little late. Remember that this is not a great daily, with a staff of paid correspondents scattered at all principal points, and a standing contract with the telegraph companies for special rates. It is a monthly exchange, established for the benefit of those who join it, and if it is to be of the greatest service to you and to the public, you must give as well as take. Let us hear from you.

We particularly request all institutions which publish a weekly or monthly journal of any sort to favor us with a copy. In our next issue we should like to print a complete list of all such publications in the United States. We have a partial list already prepared.

The Deaf and Dumb.

The *Deaf-Mute Advance*, published at Jacksonville, Illinois, says that the new chime whistle in use at that institution "sends a strong vibration into the feelings."

John Cavanagh, a deaf-mute, writing on the subject of pantomime, expresses the opinion that, in the presence of the sign-language, speech "pales into insignificance."

Queen Victoria has, on the recommendation of the Home Secretary, approved of the inquiry now being made by royal commissioners as to the expediency of extending the education of the blind, so as to include the deaf and dumb and such other classes as seem to require exceptional educational methods for their training and development.

In a certain district in Ireland the number of the deaf and dumb returned to the census commissioners was so wildly at variance with the usual proportion, that the returns were sent back for further investigation, when it was discovered that the sapient enumerator had included under the head of the "deaf and dumb" every infant child in the district who was too young to have acquired the art of speech.

Mr. W. A. Bond, in a communication to the *Brooklyn Daily Eagle*, cites the cases of a number of deaf-mute office-holders: a register of deeds at Nashville, a justice of the peace in New Bedford, a register of wills in Allentown, Pa., a policeman at Cleveland, and sundry postmasters and clerks in public offices. He would not be surprised to see a deaf-mute elected, some day, to the legislature, and thinks that "being deaf, he would have to study the bills with his eyes and not his ears, and detect all means of bad legislation, and notify his colleagues before such bills become laws. Then the hearing legislators could not ask an excuse of their constituents, because they did not read the bill, but were assured verbally of its usefulness and honest purpose."

The College of Teachers of the Deaf and Dumb in London, of which Mr. John Stainer is the president, differs from the Training Colleges at Fitzroy Square and at Ealing, in that it does not train teachers. Its special purpose is the examination of teachers and the granting of diplomas, so as to raise the whole body of teachers of the deaf into a recognized profession, by granting, after examination by a committee, certificates of qualification for this special work. Three classes of members are recognized by it: (1) Those who have been already engaged successfully in the work of teaching for at least ten years; (2) Graduates of the training colleges employed as teachers; and (3) Other persons who pass the examination of the college itself, which is said to be very critical and thorough.

M. Snyckers, who is director of the Royal Institution at Liège in Belgium, divides the technical instruction of deaf-mutes into three periods. During the first period, which comprises the first and second school years, pupils are taught all of the kindergarten exercises. In the ensuing four years the girls are taught needle-work in all its branches, and the boys learn the use of tools—fret-work, wood-carving, modelling, etc. For one year the two sections receive instruction together—then they are separated. During the third period, which extends over two years, pupils attend school during the morning only—the afternoon being spent in ordinary work-shops. After the eighth year, this apprenticeship is continued, morning and noon, until the pupil has acquired the trade chosen by him.

Miss Groom's project to colonize English deaf-mutes in Canada does not meet with the cordial approval of the *Silent Nation*, the organ of the Canadian mutes, which says that two of her colonists have already returned to London, and others will probably follow their example. Very few of this class in Canada have taken up land to engage in farming. They prefer town life. Deaf-mutes as farm hands lead sorry lives, and the English mutes will find slight benefit in the change, when they come to realize what a Canadian winter on a farm really is. If Miss Groom would send out such as have learned trades, their chance of success would be better, but the *Silent Nation* would prefer to see them come of their own volition without aid; assisted emigrants too often become burdens upon the community.

In a recent paper, the eminent French *savant*, Alphonse de Candolle, reproduces with approving comments the arguments of Prof. A. Graham Bell upon the production of a race of deaf-mutes in the United States. In commenting upon the methods proposed to prevent this result, he adds that the English language is the least favorable of all for spoken-use among deaf-mutes, as the movements of the lips are more often replaced by an accentuation or intonation that does not produce any visible effect. The vowels are articulated less clearly than, and are not so sharply differentiated from each other, as in the chief European languages. The French has very few words—such as *de* and *crac*, in which the lips do not take part in the pronunciation; while in English, numerous sounds as of *n*, *th*, and *h*, are formed almost wholly by the action of the tongue. This is confirmed by the experience of intelligent deaf-mutes. Mr. Candolle suggests, in addition to the views of Professor Bell, that, independently of deaf-mutism, marriage between first cousins should be wholly prohibited. He also asks whether greater care given to new-born infants would not materially diminish the number of deaf persons.—*Science.*

The Insane.

Dr. Clouston thinks that there has been in the five past years a real diminution of mental disease in Scotland.

It is proposed to open streets through the property owned by the Bloomingdale Asylum in the city of New York and to subject it to a tax.

Dr. E. E. Smith, medical superintendent of the Morris Plains Asylum for the Insane, in New Jersey, has resigned his position, to take effect June 1st.

At the Hudson River Hospital for the Insane (New York), a school has been opened, which is attended daily by about forty male and sixty female patients.

Dr. T. M. Franklin, Medical Superintendent of the New York City Lunatic Asylum, Blackwell's Island, has tendered his resignation, which has been accepted.

Dr. Henry Maudsley is reported, in the *Lancet*, to be busy over a new volume of psychological research, to be entitled "Natural Causes and Supernatural Seemings."

A new asylum for the insane at Lyon's View, near Knoxville, Tennessee, is nearly completed. The State has made an appropriation for another asylum in West Tennessee.

Dr. J. S. Jewell of Chicago announces that he will issue a monthly journal to be entitled *The Neurological Review*. Dr. H. M. Bannister, first assistant physician at Kankakee, will be associate editor.

The erection of a new lunatic asylum, to accommodate from 600 to 700 patients, has been begun at Barcelona, Spain, by the administration of the Hospital of Santa Cruz. Its estimated cost is $475,000.

Dr. Evans, of the Dayton (Ohio) Asylum for the Insane, has noted the frequency of heart lesions in the corpses of the insane. He is at a loss to determine whether insanity is a cause of heart disease or heart disease is a cause of insanity.

A conference of Austro-Hungarian specialists met at Vienna, March 26th and 27th, to agree upon a revised nomenclature of mental diseases, in accordance with the recommendation of the Congress of Psychiatry and Neurology, at Antwerp.

A tower clock, furnished by the Seth Thomas Clock Co., with four dials eight feet in diameter, and a striking attachment, has been placed in the tower of the insane hospital at Worcester, at a cost of about $1,000. The hours and half-hours are struck on an 800-pound bell.

Dr. W. T. O'Reilly, Inspector of Prisons and Public Charities of the Province of Ontario, has submitted to the government plans for an addition to the Asylum for the Insane at Hamilton, to contain 300 patients, modelled after the detached buildings erected at Middletown, Connecticut, and Jacksonville, Illinois. It is estimated that it will cost about $150,000.

Drs. W. Sander and A. Richter have published a book entitled "Die Beziehungen zwischen Geistesstörung und Verbrechen"—the connection between crime and insanity—which is based upon observations made in the great asylum at Dalldorf, and a review of it by Dr. Pelman will be found in the 4th number of the 22d volume of the *Allgemeine Zeitschrift für Psychiatrie.*

The New York Medico-Legal Society has appointed two committees to assist Mr. Clark Bell, the American member of the International Committee on Classification of Mental Diseases—one of three members and the other of seven. On the first are Drs. Pliny Earle, Alice Bennett, and Charles H. Hughes; on the second, Drs. A. E. McDonald, Jennie McCowen, Ira Russel, Stephen Smith, W. R. Birdsall, and T. H. Kellogg, together with Mr. Bell himself.

Dr. Charles L. Dana, in *Science*, says that "there are on record, in French, German, English, and American medical literature, only seventeen cases whose history in any way entitles them to come under the designation of cases of double consciousness. Most of them were reported from forty to sixty years ago, and without very great accuracy in detail. An examination of all these histories, and the study of cases allied to them, lead one very positively to the conclusion that such a thing as a true double consciousness, or dual life, does not exist."

Mrs. E. P. W. Packard, a former patient in the State Hospital for the Insane at Jacksonville, Illinois, labored last winter, with the legislature of New Jersey, to bring about the passage of a law regulating the correspondence of patients in institutions for the insane. She wanted a provision giving to every such patient the right to choose an outside correspondent to whom he or she might write and receive replies under seal, with the privilege of changing such correspondent once in every three months. Her bill apparently came near passing, but was killed on the final vote.

Dr. C. F. MacDonald, medical superintendent of the State Asylum for Insane Criminals at Auburn, N. Y., reports, in the April number of *Hays' Journal of the Medical Sciences*, an interesting case of recovery from insanity occasioned by a gunshot wound, as the result of puncturing, with the needle of a hypodermatic syringe, what he believes to have been a simple serous cyst in the brain. Nearly two drachms of transparent serum were removed; and a microscopic examination of the serum, made while the patient was still under ether, showed nothing but a few fresh blood corpuscles, which were regarded as of no significance.

A bill for an act to authorize the appointment of commissioners to locate an asylum for the chronic insane in Northern New York is pending and will probably become a law. It contains a most objectionable provision—namely, the granting to the commissioners the power to accept gifts in aid of the location. A State which takes this attitude assumes the attitude of a pauper, and places itself in a false position. A gift, however disguised, is in effect a bribe; it influences the action of the commissioners and perverts their judgment. Its acceptance puts the State under an obligation. In every aspect of it, it is to be deprecated.

From the report of Dr. T. T. Dick, inspector of lunatic asylums in Victoria, for the year 1884, just published, we learn that during the year the number of persons officially recognized as insane increased by nineteen, or from 3,209 to 3,228. Of these 3,228 registered insane persons at the end of the year, 753 were at Yarra Bend, 896 at Kew, 365 at Ararat, 497 at Beechworth, and 508 at Sunbury, the remainder being out on probation. There were 1,749 males and 1,479 females. In the thirty-seven years ending with 1884, 9,251 males and 6,478 females, or 15,729 in all, were admitted into the public lunatic asylums, 914 of these being re-admissions.

Ireland had, in 1884, no less than 3,775 persons in poorhouses who were laboring under some form of mental disease, independent of the aged, infirm, and physically prostrate. The total number of registered insane was 14,288, or about one to 348. England and Wales, with a population of 27,500,000, has 79,700 lunatics.

Dr. Brown, Medical Superintendent of the lunatic asylum at Taunton, Mass., remarks, with reference to the "boarding-out" plan, that it seems to be more difficult to find patients suitable to be placed at board than families who are willing to take them. A limited number of the insane can be successfully cared for in this manner, but it is not likely to be large enough greatly to relieve the crowded condition of the hospitals. Dr. Park, of the Worcester asylum, thinks that it will not furnish as much numerical relief as has been given by removals to the asylums which several of the cities have within a few years past built as attachments to their almshouses.

There are in Ontario four public asylums for the insane; at Toronto, London, Kingston, and Hamilton—which had at the close of the last fiscal year, a total population of 2,705 patients; the number under treatment during the year was 3,128, of whom 189 were discharged cured, 51 improved, 29 unimproved, 7 escaped, 146 died, and 1 was released as not insane. The Province has also an asylum for idiots at Orillia, with 229 inmates. The total expenditure by the five asylums during the year was $364,445.96, from which must be deducted the receipts from pay-patients $49,620.93, making the net cost $314,825.03. The average number of patients was 2,940, which gives a per capita cost of $123.96.

A case of heroic self-sacrifice of medical men has just occurred at Kharkoff (Russia). A patient was brought into the lunatic asylum with hydrophobia, who was so violent that he had to be put in a sack and carried along by gens d'armes. All the attendants refused to touch the unfortunate man, declaring that they would rather lose their situations; whereupon two of the medical officers, Drs. Gutnikoff and Davidoff, themselves undertook to wash him and attend to him, though he was in the filthiest condition and covered with vermin. They managed after some time to get him somewhat cleaner and calmer. However, in one of his paroxysms he bit Dr. Gutnikoff in the finger and bespattered Dr. Davidoff's hand and eye with saliva. The man did not live through the night. The two doctors are considered to be in great danger, and the principal, Professor Kovlefski, has written to Pasteur about them.—*Lancet.*

In an address to the alumni of the Medical College of Ohio, Dr. A. B. Richardson, medical superintendent of the Athens Asylum for the Insane, said, among other good things: "There ought to be nothing more to conceal about an asylum for the insane than about any general hospital. The fullest opportunities should be given interested parties to ascertain the condition and treatment of friends, and we should trust to their average intelligence and sense of rectitude to give us justice and properly weigh the peculiar evidence before them." Again: "The chief benefit to be derived from asylum treatment lies in the complete change in the environment of the patient and the consequent change in the trend of his thoughts. From being the centre of attraction and sympathetic interest at home, with thought for no one but himself and for nothing but his own experiences, he is astonished to find, in the wards of an asylum, people all about him who have such remarkable peculiarities and unreasonable delusions, that he forgets largely his own case in the interest which develops in theirs. So little attention, too, is given to his own wonderful experiences that, to a certain extent, he loses interest in them himself." On the question of unnecessary restrictions upon the freedom of the insane, he gave the following leaf out of his personal history: "In the first three years of my experience, with comparatively close restriction, I have seen a number of night escapes by picking locks, breaking windows, or bursting doors. For the past five years, with the same condition of locks, doors, and bars, but with more out-door exercise and employment, personal freedom of the grounds to twenty-five per cent. of all the inmates, unlocked doors during the day to twenty per cent., and employment to ninety per cent., I have not known a single escape by either of these methods. Where it was formerly thought necessary to administer nightly from thirty to fifty doses of narcotics—chloral and opium—we now give an average of one dose every two or three nights, and the record of the night watches shows an actual diminution in the number of restless patients."

Hospitals.

A Provident Medical Association is to be established in Liverpool, on the Manchester plan.

A hospital of fifty beds is to be erected at St. Petersburgh, as a memorial to the late emperor, Alexander II.

It is proposed to erect, by public subscription, a wing to one of the Melbourne hospitals, as a memorial to Sir Moses Montefiore.

A new sanitary hospital has been opened at Bournemouth, England, which cost nearly $20,000 and has beds for six adults and two children.

Havana has a new hospital—Our Lady de las Mercedes—to which the patients in the old hospital of St. Philip and Santiago are to be transferred.

The Metropolitan Asylums Board (London) has determined to erect a small-pox hospital for 600 patients at Gore Farm. The *Lancet* regrets this decision.

The prize of 5,000 francs offered by the Emperor of Germany for the best ambulance hut has been awarded to the Danish Portable Döcker hut, made in Copenhagen.

Mr. Henry P. Kidder, of Boston, left a legacy of $10,000 to the Massachusetts General Hospital, and $3,000 to the children's mission to the children of the destitute.

Dr. Middleton Goldsmith has given to the New York Pathological Society $2,000 in trust, and promises to give $3,000 in addition, by will, payable at the death of himself and wife.

The Great Northern Hospital of London is to be removed from the Caledonian Road to a new site in the Holloway Road, where a building to accommodate 150 patients is to be erected at an estimated cost of $160,000.

In Virginia a movement is on foot to establish a State hospital at Richmond. An appropriation of $12,000 per annum is asked for its support. It is designed to be for indigent and curable cases of a non-contagious description.

Professor Puschmann says that English hospitals owe their foundation to the beneficence, and are maintained by the contributions, of private persons; but in Germany all such institutions have been founded and are suppported by the municipality or the state.

On the 18th of March, the Hospital Saturday and Sunday Association distributed the "undesignated" contributions in aid of the institutions belonging to the Association to twenty-one institutions in the city of New York. The aggregate sum thus disposed of was $21,002.17.

The Oliver Wendell Holmes Hospital is in process of erection at Hudson, Wisconsin, on the banks of the St. Croix river. It is to be a private institution, in a frame building, three stories in height, 50 x 60 feet, with a wing 36 x 60. Dr. M. C. Benson, of Baraboo, is to be the physician in charge.

The late Mrs. Curwen, who recently died at Brighton (England) has left, in the event of her daughter dying without issue, £40,000 to St. George's Hospital, on condition that one of the wards be named the Ewing ward, and that the money be kept as a separate fund. The testarix also bequeathes £500 each to the Great Northern Hospital, St. Mary's Hospital, and All Saints' Seaside Convalescent Hospital, Eastbourne; £2,500 each to Westminster Hospital, Charing-cross Hospital, the London Fever Hospital, the Royal Free Hospital, the London Hospital, the Cancer Hospital, Middlesex Hospital, Queen Charlotte Lying-in Hospital, the General Lying-in Hospital, the City of London Lying-in Hospital, the National Hospital for the Paralyzed and Epileptic, the Royal Westminster Ophthalmic Hospital, the Hospital for Sick Children, Great Ormond Street, and the Northeastern Hospital for Children, Hackney Road; and £500 each to the Victoria Hospital for Children, and the Belgrave Hospital for Children.—*Lancet.* [The aggregate amount of these bequests is about $450,000.]

Children.

A new Catholic orphan asylum is to be erected at Minneapolis this summer.

A bill has been introduced in the Maryland general assembly, to prohibit the receiving and detaining of children between the ages of three and sixteen years in poorhouses, and to provide for the education of such children.

Dr. W. M. Leszynsky, attending physician of a charitable institution for children in New York, traced a recent epidemic of purulent ophthalmia to leucorrhœa as its cause. All of the female children affected with ophthalmia were also suffering from purulent vulvitis.

In the children's department at the University Hospital of Berlin there is a collection of some three hundred nursing-bottles of various sizes and shapes, all provided with a long rubber tube, which encloses a piece of litmus-paper colored red.—No commentary is needed.—*Therapeutic Gazette.*

Long nursing tubes in children's feeding bottles are an abomination, since they form ready nests for the propagation of disease germs. Use an ordinary rubber nipple, without any tube—it is greatly to be preferred, on every account. Have a number of these always on hand and keep those not in actual use constantly soaking in water with a little soda in it. This counsel, if followed, will save the lives of many infants.

Mr. William P. Letchworth writes to the *Buffalo Commercial Advertiser* that the number of children between the ages of two and sixteen years in all poorhouses and almshouses of the State of New York, exclusive of New York City, is constantly and gradually decreasing; on the first of October, 1885, he says, it was only sixty-seven. "With few, if any, exceptions, the children between the ages mentioned in the poorhouses of the State are either unteachable idiots, epileptics, or so diseased as to render them unsuitable to place in families. They are children that the orphan asylums properly refuse to accept, and for whom the State has made no provision. Sometimes superintendents of the poor can get them boarded in private families, but it is generally at a high rate, in consequence of the helpless condition of these wards, as in the case of hopeless idiots, of which the proportion is large."

The statutes of Indiana provide that in any county in the State, where an association for the purpose of maintaining an orphan's home or asylum has been or may be organized, the county commissioners may purchase land and buildings for the use and occupancy of the wards of said association, not to exceed in cost $5,000, the title to such land and buildings to be and remain in the county. Under this act, which was passed in 1881, seven county homes for children have been established, and others are projected.

Charity Organization.

Mr. W. Alexander Johnson, formerly secretary of the Associated Charities of Cincinnati, has resigned his position, to accept that of secretary of the Charity Organization Society of Chicago, where correspondents will in future address him.

Dr. James W. Walk has resigned the secretaryship of the Philadelphia Society for Organizing Charity. His retiracy will be felt to be a loss to the work by the country at large.

A Monthly Bulletin of the Charity Organization Society of the city of New York is a confidential communication for members and constituents of the society. Besides giving an account of the work of the central agent and of the various district committees for the month, and acknowledging the receipt of contributions, it cautions members against impostors by name. The cautions given include not only individual beggars and writers of begging letters, but institutions and societies which collect funds in the name of charity, but are in fact unworthy of confidence and support. The value of the service thus rendered must be appreciated by all who wish to give wisely, and not to be victimized by adroit swindlers.

From the sixth annual report of the Detroit Association of Charities we glean the following facts: The cost of maintaining the organization is about $3,000 a year. Last year, nearly 12,000 applications for work were made to it, by 2,316 persons, and employment found for 1,042. The number of meal tickets issued was about 1,800, and of meals given 2,600; 500 tickets were given for lodging. To able-bodied men a ticket is given, requiring a certain amount of work at the city wood-yard, before receiving help. The number of district meetings during the year was 21; of friendly visits paid by friendly visitors, 192; of cases investigated by the central office, 325, by committees, 74. During the months of June and July, temporary homes were found in the country for 15 persons at a cost of $15.10. A list of 20 private charities is appended to the report, not including the county almshouse and insane asylum, nor the day nursery and the industrial school. Judging by the remarks or the council, they feel that they have as yet scarcely entered upon their work, but that it lies still largely in the future.

At the root of almost all the visible distress of poverty a want lies which is but dumbly expressed—a spiritual want, of which external wants are symptoms. With few exceptions, the radical trouble in the case of our brother who is in the distress of poverty, is not that he is "in poor circumstances," but that he is poor. His poverty reaches deeper than "condition" or "environment." It is poverty of being, the BEING, whose inheritance is to think, to choose, to hope, to plan, to execute, but whose inheritance lies undeveloped or has been wrongly developed or has been squandered. Therefore, whatever distress of physical want thrusts itself upon us and oppresses us, when we begin the study of a new complication of troubles, with the desire to do what a friend may do, we are to remember always that our object lies far deeper than temporary "relief." Charity goes as deep as the want goes.—*Register.*

The words of the committee appointed in Bristol, England, in 1884, to inquire into the causes of pauperism, are golden, and ought to be engraved on the memory of every impulsive giver in the land: "Never give to beggars without inquiring into the truth of their story. It is cruel selfishness to do so. Give, when you give personally, with intelligent knowledge of all the circumstances of the recipients, with kindly feelings and real sympathy for them, and in a spirit of trust and hopefulness. If you distrust, do not give at all; you have no right to give, if you distrust. If you are unable from lack of time or from circumstances to put yourself in personal relation with the poor, do not give personally at all; send your money to those who are able to do so, and beg them to distribute for you. Gifts of flowers and pictures sweeten the lives of the poor, and are elevating gifts; but money, injudiciously dispensed among them, is a curse. Nor does the evil of indiscriminate charity end with the immediate receivers. It tempts and taints their neighbors; the temptation is visible and certain; the beggar returns with his spoil, and his neighbor, who sees it, is tempted to go a-hunting."

Prisons and Prisoners.

At Williamsport, Indiana, a very foolish thing is about to be done: the county authorities design building a new court-house and putting a jail under it.

There has been an epidemic of typhoid fever at the Ohio State Penitentiary, attributed to the use of river water for drinking purposes. A large sewer discharges its contents into the river not far above the prison.

Mr. Justice Day, of Liverpool, in his charge to the Grand Jury, expressed his regret that public sentiment in England is so strongly opposed to corporal punishment for crime. He referred particularly, in his remarks, to assaults upon women.

The Essex county (Massachusetts) commissioners have voted to prohibit the use of tobacco in any form by prisoners or inmates of houses of correction or similar institutions in that county; four such institutions are subject to their charge—St. Lawrence, Newburyport, Ipswich, and Salem.

Warden Brush, of Sing Sing Prison, speaking of his prisoners, says: "These men, many of them, are what are called old offenders, and come here time and again. Now they nearly all leave here meaning to live honest lives, but when outside they find it impossible to get bread right off, or go to work, and they are forced to steal in order to live."

Dr. R. P. Huger, of Anniston, Alabama, is engaged in an attempt to induce the authorities in charge of the county jails of that State to correct the deplorably unsanitary condition which characterizes most of them. Persons who have written and published pamphlets or articles on this subject will confer a favor upon him by sending him one or more copies.

The average number of inmates of the Kansas City (Missouri) workhouse was 63; the total number during the year was 1,562. The total expenditure was between $14,000 and $15,000. Two thirds of the commitments were for drunkenness and disturbing the peace; the proportion of foreign-born prisoners was about one third, and of native two thirds. A prison uniform has been adopted.

The following is the text of the proposed amendment to the constitution of the State of Illinois, which is to be submitted to the people for their adoption or rejection, at the general election to be held in November, 1886: "Hereafter it shall be unlawful for the commissioners of any penitentiary or other reformatory institution in that State of Illinois to let by contract to any person or persons or corporations the labor of any convict confined within said institution."

We are unable to perceive the good sense of the rule in force in England, which prevents a prisoner from receiving education until he has been four months in prison. It is very much as if the health commissioners should adopt a rule that no patient should be given any medicine until he has been four months in the hospital. The great trouble with prisons everywhere is that they do not attach sufficient importance to education as a remedial measure for crime.

The number of prisoners received by the St. Paul (Minnesota) workhouse, last year, was 1,113. More than half of them were for drunkenness or disorderly conduct, and 718 were foreign-born. Their aggregate gain in weight, while in confinement, was 3,432 pounds, or a trifle more than three pounds each. Not much chance, we should say, to find fault with the dietary in that prison. The longest sentence was for two years, and the shortest for five days. The average number was 80. They are credited with 6,933 days' labor during the year, which would show not more than about one fourth of them employed in any way. The institution costs, for maintenance, about $15,000 per annum.

Since 1879 there have been received 1,888 men into the Home of Industry and Refuge for Discharged Convicts at 40 East Houston Street, New York, and 910 have obtained employment through its influence. Michael Dunn, the former superintendent, is now in charge of a similar home in Chicago, maintained by the Illinois Prisoners' Aid Association. The trustees of the New York home say of him: "If we all possessed his sympathy for the prisoner, combined with his untiring energy and devotion to the cause of the prisoner's reformation, these homes would soon be found in every city in our land."

Every man who enters a prison and can work in prison was a laborer before he was sent to prison, or he was a drone who lived off other people. If he was the latter, he was the consumer of the products of free labor, and paid nothing for what he used. When he supports himself, he relieves free labor of so much tax as he has laid upon it. That means relief to free labor. If any convict maintained himself before he went to prison and is made to do it in prison, he is no more competing with free labor than he was with other free labor before he got into prison. Shall a man who has assailed society be made the guest of society in prison, and a tax upon other men?—I. V. BAKER, Jr.

There are in England sixty Discharged Prisoners' Aid Societies. They hold an annual meeting in London. An effort is making to secure the organization of such a society in connection with every prison. Industrial Homes for discharged prisoners are maintained at Wakefield, Lewes, Leicester, and Reading, two of which are under the management of the aid societies and two are independent. There is another, which is quite a private venture; that is the workshop which the chaplain of Clerkenwell Prison has started. In this he simply employs men for their work in the day-time. They find their own food and lodging. He employs four or five daily. He keeps them there until he finds them some satisfactory employment elsewhere.

The situation of the prison question in New York at the close of the last financial year, is thus summed up in the report of the superintendent. Four hundred prisoners or more are idle. The superintendent is not able to put these men at work. The legislature has decreed that he shall make no contracts for the labor of convicts. It has failed to appropriate the capital required to employ all the prisoners available, so that prisoners now idle can not be employed upon State account. The needs of the idle men are very great and urgent, and can be met only in one of two ways—either by an appropriation of a sufficient sum to employ all of them on public account, or by the passage of an act authorizing the trial of the piece-price plan.

"Our Paper," published in the Massachusetts Reformatory at Concord, for the benefit of the inmates, gives a glowing account of a recent entertainment in the chapel by the Saturday Scientific and Literary Club, composed of prisoners. The programme included vocal and instrumental music, essays, recitations, comicalities, and a dialogue between a young man and a young woman, the latter being personated by a prisoner, whose make-up is said to have been "inimitable."

The cautious statement of the trustees of the Home of Industry for Discharged Convicts, in the city of New York, that 80 per cent. of the inmates "say" that the use of intoxicants has been the cause of their crime, reminds us of the conversation which is "said" to have occurred between a visitor to a penitentiary and one of the inmates. "What brought you to this place, my friend?" "Sneezing, sorr." "Sneezing?" "Yes, sorr; it woke the gentleman up and he nabbed me. Have you got a bit of tobacky about you, sorr?" The etiology of crime as given by the criminal is not much more worthy of confidence than the etiology of insanity as given by a lunatic. It is this fact which throws such discredit upon the statistics of crime and intemperance taken from prison registers. Broadly speaking, they are not worth the paper they are printed upon.

The Rev. R. C. Buckner, of Dallas, Texas, keeps two offers continually standing in the columns of his paper, *The Good Samaritan*, one of which reads: "Any released prisoner, or any person of either sex, desiring to reform and to lead a pure and industrious life, shall have assistance in finding employment by addressing the editor of this paper;" and the other: "Anybody willing to aid unfortunate and depraved women, or released convicts, in efforts to reform, by giving them suitable employment, is invited to address R. C. Buckner, Dallas. Mark 'private' on envelope. Certificates of good standing will be required of strangers. Work in the country preferred." Thus he has constituted himself an employment bureau for persons of this class. Whether he limits his sphere of operations to Texas we do not know, but there is nothing in the notice to lead to the supposition that he does.

The Women's Christian Temperance Unon has a department of prison, jail, police, and almshouse work, whose motto is: "Not willing that any should perish." The published report, by Mrs. J. K. Barney, of Rhode Island, General Superintendent, shows considerable work done during the year and a growing interest in it. Police matrons have been appointed in Manchester, New Hampshire; Chicago, Denver, San Francisco, and elsewhere. A reformatory home for women has been opened at Fresno, California. In Arkansas a day has been set apart as Strawberry Day for the prisoners at Little Rock; on that day a box of berries is also sent to every convict in the State. The convicts in the Texas penitentiary furnished an elegant banner for the booth of the Association at New Orleans, which served to attract considerable attention to the work of the department. In Detroit the Union has organized a society to care for friendless women. In Georgia it carries on Sunday-schools in the convict camps. In Iowa one thousand personal letters were sent to prisoners at Easter. The work of the department consists largely in personal correspondence with prisoners, the distribution of books and papers, placing illuminated cards on the walls of prison cells, personal visitation of jails and almshouses, furnishing comforts and luxuries for their inmates at the holiday season, looking after prisoners' families, and inducing competent persons to deliver addresses upon temperance and other appropriate topics to the convicts in penitentiaries and other prisons.

The Knights of Labor and the trades-unions have found an effective weapon against the contract system of labor in the boycott, which is not so new an invention as many suppose, nor is its use by any means confined to labor, though it has only recently developed its full power for good or evil—mostly for evil, we think. In Illinois, all the large boot and shoe houses in Chicago which employ prison labor under a contract have been compelled to sign an agreement not to take any new contracts, and to use every effort to secure a release from those now in force. At a recent bidding for the labor of the prisoners at Joliet not a single offer was made at any price. The Illinois Knights say that they do not care whether the constitutional amendment abolishing convict labor in prisons and reformatories is voted up or down at the next general election; that in any event no one will be bold enough to take such a contract, with financial ruin, through the agency of the boycott, staring him in the face. Probably the majority of contractors in this country feel as Mr. Perry of Albany, N. Y., expressed himself, in an article to the *Chicago Daily News*, in which he said: "The present year will end my connexion with a prison contract, and no price nor terms would induce me to continue it." It is frequently said that what the honest workingmen of America object to is productive labor in prisons under any system; this they indignantly deny, and assert that they are not fools, nor do they desire any man to be idle, in prison or out of it; but that they want to know that they are not underbid in the market, which they believe to be the actual result of the contract system. Whatever may be said of the piece-price plan (which is characterized by many as a temporary makeshift), it has at least this recommendation—that it would test the sincerity of these declarations. For if the price paid for piece work in the prison is the same as that paid in any factory, there would be absolutely no ground for the belief, which working men entertain, that contractors do not pay for prison labor its full market value.

Miscellaneous.

The bill for separating the Massachusetts Board of Health from Lunacy and Charity has become a law.

The Erring Women's Refuge, Chicago, has established a paper, called the *Refuge Journal*, the first number of which appeared in March.

An International Congress of Hydrology and Climatology will assemble at Biarritz, October 1st, under the presidency of Dr. Durand Fardel.

Mr. James McEwan, of Glasgow, a sugar broker, left legacies to charitable institutions in that city and the west of Scotland amounting to £22,000.

Mrs. Clara T. Leonard, of Springfield, Mass., has resigned her position as a member of the State Board of Health, Lunacy, and Charity, on account of the state of her health.

The death of Dr. Austin Flint, from apoplexy, March 13th, is a bereavement felt by the entire American medical profession, in which they have the sympathy of their brethren throughout the world.

The Birmingham Coffee House Company (England) has declared a dividend of ten per cent. for the last year. It has twenty-six coffee houses, which are designed to counteract the ruinous influence of the "gin palaces" of that city.

The State of Connecticut provides for the medical treatment and support of disabled and indigent soldiers and sailors of the late war, in the hospitals at Middletown, New Haven, and Bridgeport, and in Fitch's Home, at Noroton. It is with difficulty that these institutions can furnish sufficient accommodation for this class of beneficiaries—a class steadily increasing and likely to continue increasing for some years to come. The necessity for promptly meeting this emergency is manifest. —Gov. Harrison.

Mr. Alfred C. Chapin, Comptroller of the State of New York, in a late special report to the Senate and Assembly upon salaries, taxation and revenue, says: "Study of the relation of the State to the various charitable and other institutions which receive its moneys leads to the conviction that they are in the main efficiently and carefully administered. Those institutions, however, seem one and all to be for ever struggling to adjust their means to a steadily increasing influx of patients, whose ranks multiply at a rate that can not be satisfactorily explained. When the numbers of the inmates of asylums and places of refuge increase with three or four times the rapidity of those who are still at large, evidently some deep-seated wrong is at work."

On more than one occasion, recently, we have seen notices by grand juries of the miserable condition of our (South Carolina) county poorhouses, and defence of the same by the parties interested. This is to go on and on, until the public learns that not to do a thing at all is better than to do it in a slouchy, slovenly manner. We are utterly disgusted with the revelations made as to the condition of most of our county poorhouses. The idea seems to be to make the pauper as unhappy as it is possible for him to be, so that he will prefer his grave to the charities of the cold world. We recently heard a distinguished judge, who was in a condition to know, make the remark that he knew of but one of them that is not a disgrace to the spirit of Christianity.—*Our Monthly*, Clinton, S. C.

Assistant Secretary Fairchild of the United States Treasury Department has submitted to Congress the draft of a bill to amend the laws regulating immigration. The bill exempts transient alien tourists from the present per capita tax of fifty cents, and provides a penalty of five hundred dollars for permanently landing an alien pauper, idiot, lunatic, or convict. The Secretary of the Treasury is empowered to appoint commisioners of immigration, not to exceed three in number, at Boston, New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Key West, New Orleans, Galveston, and San Francisco, who shall take exclusive charge and provide for the support and retention of such alien immigrants as may fall into distress. But is it only the coast line which needs to be guarded? Experience has demonstrated the fact that many alien paupers and criminals are shipped to the United States by way of Canada, and it seems equally essential to watch with care the Canadian boundary line.

A bill for an act to establish a State board of charities and corrections has been introduced in the legislature of Maryland, at the instance of Mr. G. S. Griffith, which, he thinks, covers the ground more effectually and more economically than the bill of Mr. Thomas G. Hayes to provide for a State supervision of public charities, prisons, and reformatory institutions. Judge William A. Fisher says, in a letter to Mr. Griffith, which has been published, "It is particularly important that the control over such a subject should be placed in the hands of persons who will be induced to give their time to it entirely, because of a sense of duty and of responsibility for the welfare of their less fortunate fellow-men; therefore no temptation should be held out to induce cold service merely for money. The appointment of salaried officers to constitute a board to control the charitable and correctional institutions of the State seems to me to be fraught with the danger of very serious evils to the welfare of such institutions in many ways. It is wise, also, to restrict the attempt at supervision to the public institutions; to go further would be found impracticable, and the attempt to do so would render the board odious and destroy its usefulness." Mr. Enoch Pratt concurs with Judge Fisher in the opinions expressed by him.